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Richard Cork on the art of Hogarth

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WIN A DREAM CAR

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Major was ready to quit for Clarke

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

JOHN MAJOR almost quit as Prime Minister in the week after Britain left the European exchange-rate mechanism in 1992. He wrote a resignation statement and was even thinking of Kenneth Clarke as his preferred successor, but he was talked out of going after two hours of anguished soul-searching with his private secretary, Stephen Wall.

Three years later when he was again on the rack over Europe, Mr Major allegedly tried to do a secret deal with Sir James Goldsmith. He is said to have promised the Referendum Party leader that he would try to persuade the Cabinet of the need for a plebiscite on Britain's relations

with Europe if Sir James held fire in his own campaign — which was eventually to cost the Tories many Westminster seats.

The disclosures and allegations come from two insiders whose accounts appear in *The Times* as Mr Major prepares to address the Tory conference today.

According to Mr Major's official biographer Anthony Seldon, stories that Mr Major lost his nerve or wobbled on September 16, 1992 — Black Wednesday — were without foundation. In fact, his book tells how Mr Major overruled his Chancellor, Norman Lamont, on crucial decisions that day, including the raising of interest rates to 15 per cent in a vain attempt to keep Britain in the ERM.

But his mood darkened in the following days, Seldon writes. "He repeatedly

pondered the idea of his resignation, floating it with several colleagues on the evening of Tuesday 22 September. "Despite finding no support, he would not leave the subject alone, and came close to putting it into practice on the Wednesday. He went as far as to write out the script for a resignation broadcast, and tip off

Kenneth Clarke that he should prepare himself for a leadership election."

That evening, he tried to show the text to Mr Wall who refused to read it; instead they talked for two hours. "Major subsequently regarded this conversation as crucial to his decision to carry on." And when Mr Lamont offered his resignation

to Mr Major, he was told that neither would be stepping down.

Mr Seldon's book provides the most authentic evidence to date of the extent of Mr Major's demoralisation over the ERM debacle. He was sent the manuscript of the book and was given the right to correct any factual errors.

Mr Seldon highlights the damage the fiasco did to Mr Major's self-confidence. "Major had acted on what he regarded as the best advice in the country, and had taken what he thought were the brave and right decisions. Now he found himself widely reviled. He had never felt so lonely or exposed in his working life."

The biography also charts the political damage caused by the fiasco. Tory Eurosceptics were unrestrained in their

attacks on the leadership and middle-ranking ministers such as John Redwood became more openly critical. "In Cabinet Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and, increasingly, Michael Portillo felt more confident to speak out. The balance of power began to tilt away from Major."

The allegations about secret discussions between Mr Major and Sir James Goldsmith are made by Lord MacAlpine of West Green in a fresh chapter for his book *Once in Jolly Begonia*. The central charge that Mr Major was prepared to offer Sir James a referendum on Britain's relations with Europe is understood to be strongly

Major repeatedly pondered the idea of his resignation, floating it with several of his colleagues

Anthony Seldon on the fallout of Black Wednesday, page 17

Goldsmith believed he had obtained a full referendum because he believed John Major

Lord MacAlpine on a deal with the Referendum Party, page 15

Conference preview, pages 8, 9
Leading article, page 21

Play the game, public schools tell their boys

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

A CODE of conduct to stamp out indiscipline and gamesmanship imported from professional sport in matches between schools was unveiled last night by the heads of leading independent schools.

Following a series of incidents on and off the pitch at school matches, the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference is to urge its members to take a stronger hand in disciplining teams. Parents will also be warned about bad language and aggression when cheering from the touchline.

The agreement, which will be put to schools in the next few months, will focus particularly on verbal abuse, intimidation, bad language and dissent on the playing fields which were the cradle of modern sport and gave the world soccer and rugby.

Chris Hirst the headmaster of Sedburgh School, who drafted the code, said: "The world of professional sport has raced ahead and its attitudes have changed games. All schools have a responsibility to channel competitive instincts into fair play."

Mr Hirst said pupils were influenced by television and by the behaviour they encountered in clubs when playing out of school. Headmasters had to exercise "as much control over standards of behaviour in sport as they did in other areas of school life."

Parents will also feel the effects of the code, which was agreed by the committee in draft form at the HMC's conference in Brighton. Mr Hirst said touchline aggression and bad language were becoming more common, even in preparatory schools. One school had filmed a parent and shown him the video to bring home its concerns.

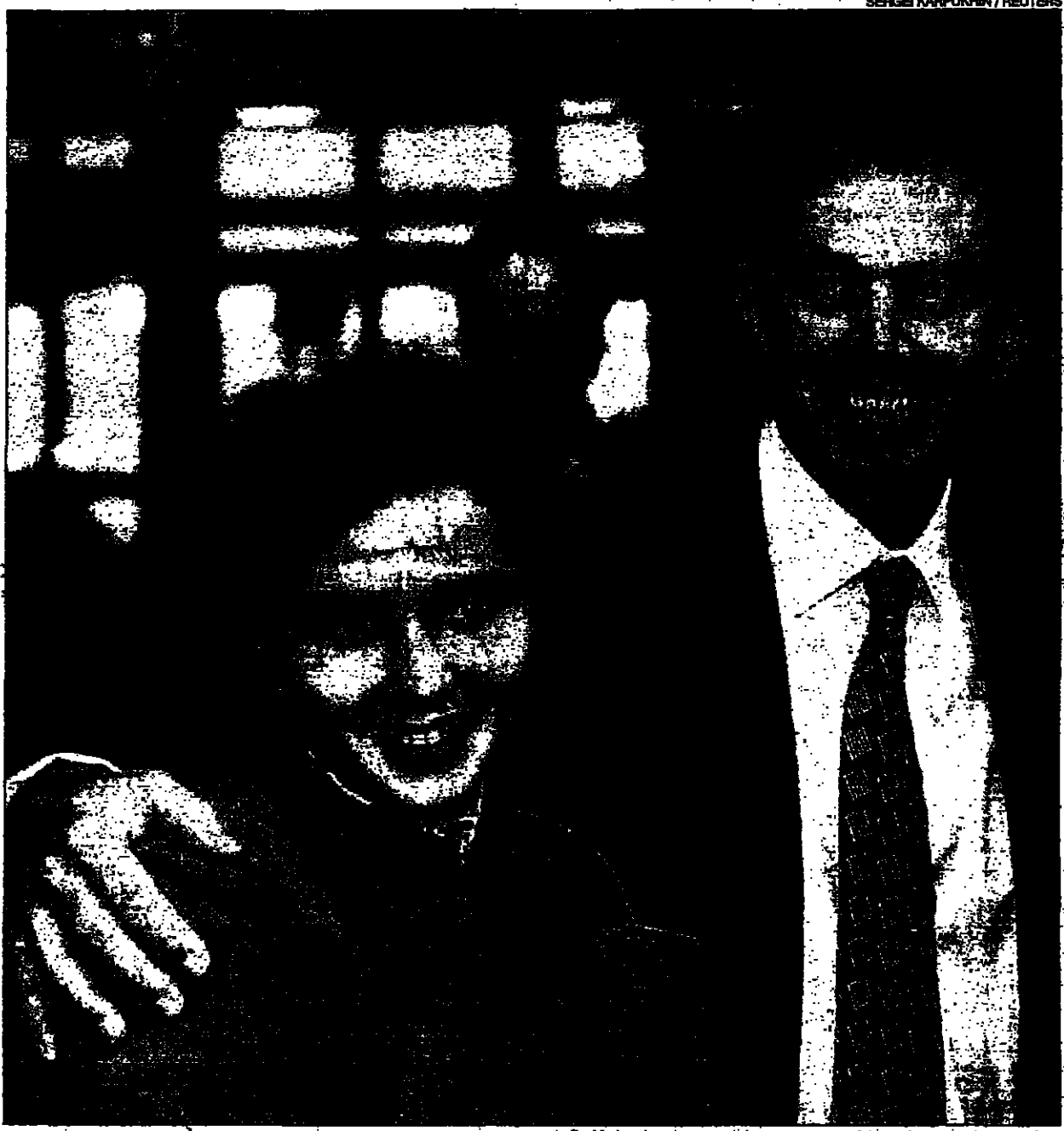
The draft code says schools of all types bear a responsibility to set the highest standards of conduct on the field. The rapport between head teacher and master in charge of any sport is crucial to the maintenance of high standards, the code says. "The master in charge must always know that he has his head's support in stressing that inter-school matches should be played in the best possible spirit where victory is sought at all times but where defeat is not the end of the world."

"The fear of losing (quite different from the concept of avoiding defeat in hard-fought and fair contest) is a negative concept which can have a direct effect upon conduct in the field."

Mr Hirst said that schools from other countries, which have been criticised particularly for poor behaviour on the cricket field, cannot take all of the blame. "I suspect this so-called 'professional' approach has long been evident in adult cricket of all descriptions. It is good to see action being taken to change this state of affairs at the highest level, and I hope that all schools may play their part to ensure that this same spirit of the game is evident at the grass roots."

Last night's meeting followed the highly-publicised row at a cricket match in June between Marlborough and Radley Colleges, which led to the cancellation of all fixtures between the schools. Marlborough batsmen complained of verbal abuse and refused to declare their innings in time to give Radley a realistic prospect of victory.

Radley staff and pupils apologised for their team's "sledging", but Richard Morgan, the warden, later announced that it was "in the interests of both schools" to suspend fixtures in the main sports.



Tony Blair in Moscow yesterday with Olga Moshkanova, winner of a British Council competition

Stranger on the Moscow Metro

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

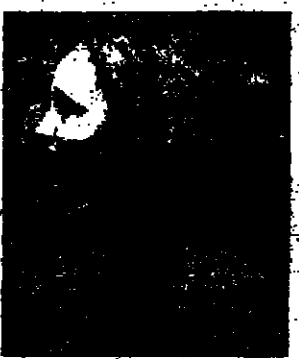
IRINA SILINA expected to have a quiet mid-afternoon ride to her lecture across town yesterday until her Metro carriage was invaded by Russian secret policemen and a smiling Tony Blair.

On his short and hectic first visit to Moscow, the Prime Minister took time out from his Kremlin meetings to make contact with "real Russians". The experiment received at best mixed results. Some, particularly the elderly, who were brought up to mistrust foreigners, especially those with their hands outstretched and a grin on their faces, turned tail and fled. For them, there are only two British Prime Ministers — Winston Churchill, and

Margaret Thatcher, who many believe is still in power. Others, like the granite-faced Metro attendants returned the smile, particularly when Mr Blair's legs were momentarily crushed by the automatic turnstiles, which had rejected the special card handed to him only moments earlier by Dmitri Gaiyev, the embarrased director of the Metro.

On the platform of Revolution Square station, Mr Blair began to break the ice. Some passengers were finally coaxed into a handshake and brief greeting. Others rushed up to him when they saw who it was. "Of course I know that was Tony Blair," said Sergei, a student insulted by the suggestion that he was ignorant of British politics. "I followed the election on TV. The only thing

I do not understand is what he is doing here. "The Prime Minister's greatest success was achieved once he had boarded the train and set his eyes on Miss Silina. The Metro is



Irina Silina meeting a stranger on the Metro

similar to London Underground in that attractive young women travelling alone are naturally suspicious of smiling older men.

Fortunately for Mr Blair, the 21-year-old not only spoke fluent English, but had been to a language school outside Birmingham. She did not even hear any personal grudges against the leader of a government whose embassy had treated her to a difficult and insulting manner when she applied for a visa.

Earlier Mr Blair met another attractive young Moscowite, Olga Moshkanova, 16, who won a competition sponsored by the British Council and will attend a language course in London.

Yeltsin's embrace, page 11

Rare grave of Saxon found at F-111 base

By Nick Muttall

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have made an important Anglo-Saxon discovery in the middle of the US Air Force F111 fighter base at Lakenheath in Suffolk. It was announced last night.

One grave, dating from AD550, contains a horse and its nobleman rider, who was buried with great ceremony. It was one of more than 140 graves discovered when bulldozers moved in to dig the foundations for a dormitory.

Construction has been extended to allow the archaeologists time to complete their investigations. Among the artefacts found are swords, spears, shields, brooches, beads and shells. The project is being funded by the Ministry of Defence's Defence Estate Organisation. A spokesman said the nobleman's grave was a find of the importance of the discovery of Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge.

Angela Evans, curator at the British Museum, said that there were examples of horses being buried on the Continent, but it was unique to find a person and a horse buried together in Britain.

Pentagon aide on spy charge

A former Pentagon lawyer and two other people have been arrested by the FBI on charges of spying for East Germany during the Cold War, the Justice Department said yesterday.

The three were due to appear before a federal court in Virginia on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage during the 1970s and 1980s. Page 14

Judge's apology

The judge heading the Hillsborough inquiry apologised to relatives of the victims for a slipshod remark. There were calls for Lord Justice Sedley-Smith to be removed for asking a harassed father: "Have you got a few of your people or are they like the Liverpool fans — turn up at the last minute?" Page 2

Barclays strikes

Barclays Bank workers are to stage two one-day strikes this month in a pay dispute. Branch staff claim they are being forced to pay for the problems at BZW, Barclays' investment bank, where executives have been offered guaranteed bonuses to stay while a buyer is sought. Page 25

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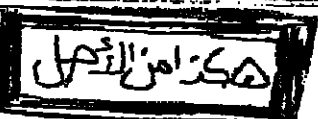
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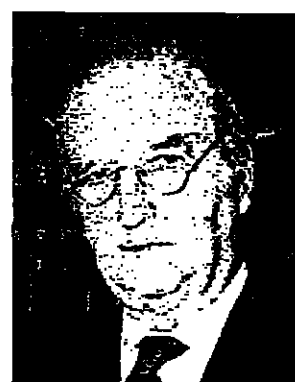
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Hillsborough judge apologises over Liverpool slur



Stuart-Smith: his apology was accepted

BY FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE judge heading the inquiry into the Hillsborough tragedy apologised to relatives of the victims last night after infuriating them with an off-the-cuff remark. There were calls for Lord Justice Stuart-Smith to be removed from his handling of the new inquiry into the tragedy after his remarks, made in Liverpool.

The judge asked Phil Hammond, whose teenage son, Philip, died at Hillsborough: "Have you got a few of your people or are they like the Liverpool fans - turn up at the last minute?" Families hit by the tragedy were incensed, particularly as the question came from the man with the job of carrying out a "focused scrutiny" into the disaster at the Sheffield Wednesday ground, in which 96 fans died.

"I can't believe that remark," Mr Hammond said. "I just walked away. He said, 'Are all your families here or are they going to be late like Liverpool fans?'"

The Hillsborough Family Support Group last night accepted the apology. The chairman, Trevor Hicks, whose teenage daughters, Sarah and Victoria, were among those who died, said the families had decided to accept the apology "without reservation". However, he said that the inquiry had "got off to a bad start". Apart from the judge's remark, there was the question of his terms of reference. There were issues which were not part of the new scrutiny, he said. These would be raised with the Home Office.

"We had a private meeting afterwards and discussed this morning's gaffe. We are going to carry on for the moment but make the Home Office aware of our views and on our thoughts on the terms of reference."

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's visit to Liverpool was part of the in-depth probe ordered by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, in June. Jack Spriggs, chairman of the Liverpool City Council Hillsborough Disaster Working Party, which was set up in the wake of the tragedy, said the judge should resign. "I don't think he can just laugh this off as a flippant remark. I think he may have a pre-determined view and he should be replaced," he said.

Mr Spriggs went on: "I will be making the suggestion to the Hillsborough working party next week. We support the families and will continue to support them if they wish to continue working with this judge. He's an eminent judge who shouldn't be making a reference like this. I don't think he should be making off-the-cuff comments about death or this investigation."

Court orders re-run in seat lost by two votes

Ex-minister has second chance of election victory, writes James Landale

THE Tories and Liberal Democrats are to rejoin battle in a by-election for Winchester after the High Court declared the general election result in the Hampshire seat to be void.

The historic decision gives Gerald Malone, the former Health Minister, a chance to recapture his seat in Parliament. The former Tory MP lost the constituency in May by two votes, the smallest recorded margin for a Westminster seat, after two recounts.

In the first annulment of a Parliamentary election result since 1910, Lord Justice Brooke said that the poll was void because officials had failed to stamp correctly 55 ballot papers. Under Britain's election laws, ballot papers cannot be counted unless they have been stamped with an official perforation mark at the polling station.

If a judge believes the final result would have changed had these papers been counted, he has to declare the election void. Mr Malone's lawyers claimed that the Tories would have won by two votes if the 55 rejected papers had been counted.

Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat who won the seat with 26,100 votes, will remain an MP until the Speaker orders the by-election. If she moves the writ when MPs return to the Commons on October 27, the poll is likely to be held towards the end of November.

Labour, which polled only 10 per cent of the vote in May, has little chance of winning the seat. Officials denied reports that the party would not put up a candidate to boost the Liberal Democrats' chances.

"It is highly unlikely that we will not put up a candidate," a spokesman said. However, Labour is unlikely to campaign hard.

Mr Malone is likely to pick up some of the 1,598 votes

which Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party secured in Winchester in May. The Referendum Party has reformed into a political "movement" and no longer fights seats.

However, Derek Rumsey, the United Kingdom Independence Party candidate who won 476 votes in May, is likely to stand, according to his 66-year-old wife, June. She said: "There will be a meeting later this week but at present there is an intention to stand."

Mr Malone said he was looking forward to the election and predicted that the public mood was swinging towards the Tories.

"Whatever polls say, the mood of the country has been changing in the real world," he told the BBC's *World at One* programme. "It will be a changed political landscape when we go back to the electorate. I'm very much looking forward to that opportunity."

Mr Oaten welcomed the judge's decision not to hand the seat directly to the Tories, as Mr Malone had initially demanded.

The last time a result was declared void in 1910 a Liberal Democrat four-vote majority at Exeter became a Tory majority of one in the resulting by-election.

Mr Oaten is hoping that he will secure the support of the 640 voters who backed Richard Huggitt, a maverick "Liberal Democrat" - Top

Choice for Parliament candidate in May. "The tiny number of void ballot papers claimed by Gerry Malone pale into insignificance beside the 640 votes cast for the hoax candidate," he said.

"It would have been a great injustice if the actions of a hoax candidate had resulted in the seat being handed from one party to another. The result was close last time so I suppose there are grounds for both of us to be confident. But I've had the benefit of being the MP, working hard, getting to know constituents over the last six months."

He said: "I'm delighted that with a by-election the people of Winchester can settle this. I've got a feeling I'm going to be the MP for Winchester for many years to come yet."

Winchester's returning officer is expected to have to pay the estimated £50,000 costs of the legal action. The Home Office will pay for the by-election.

Tory conference pages 8 and 9



Conservative Gerald Malone: Mood of country changing towards Tories, he said

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stranded Britons fly home

The first six planeloads of Britons stranded abroad after the collapse of the travel company SunTours arrived back at Manchester and Gatwick airports last night. Further flights during the next few days will bring home the rest of an estimated 8,000 tourists without any having to cut short their holidays.

The emergency flights were organised by the Civil Aviation Authority after SunTours, which specialised in Turkish holidays, ceased trading on Sunday. All those abroad and others who have booked future holidays are covered by the company's air tour operators' licence bond of £4.9 million.

McCauley ruling

Pearse McCauley, wanted in Britain for conspiracy to murder and cause explosions, is to be extradited from Ireland. The High Court in Dublin ruled yesterday that McCauley, 32, who was arrested on Saturday, should be extradited today unless his lawyers lodged an appeal within 24 hours.

Blake book plea

Government lawyers urged yesterday that George Blake should be denied profits from his memoirs. To allow the Communist spy to keep any money from *No God, No Master* would encourage other intelligence officers to profit from breaking national security, the High Court was told. The case continues.

Done roaming

The Country Landowners Association is protesting plans to introduce a public right to roam over most uncultivated land, such as moorland and heath. A government consultation document is expected this month but the association has told Tony Blair that ministers appear to have made up their minds already.

Guide 'cleared'

Mountain guide David Cuthbertson, blamed by the High Court in London for the death of Gerald Heddley in the French Alps in 1990, was cleared by the British Mountain Guides standards committee, which said he had made "a life or death" decision which the court had not properly understood.

Trial suicide

A prison officer facing trial for lying about his criminal record shot himself with a home-made gun. Michael Murphy, 48, had told friends he feared the treatment he would face from other prisoners. He killed himself at his home on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, with a gun made of scaffolding pipe.

Rome prepares for English hooligans

BY RICHARD DUCE

ITALIAN police are braced for an invasion of up to 700 known English football hooligans who are about to descend on Rome for Saturday's crucial World Cup qualifying game. British police have warned the authorities in the Italian capital that 60 or 70 of the supporters are "hard core" troublemakers who will have to be monitored from the moment they arrive.

All of them, described by police as potentially violent "Category C" fans, have criminal convictions related to football disorder, and of the remaining 600 so-called Category B supporters, 95 per cent have similar convictions. Category A fans, the majority, do not cause any trouble.

Interest in the vital game for England's World Cup hopes is such that 10,000 England supporters are expected to arrive in Rome from Thursday. Around 1,000 do not have tickets. No previous game has commanded such interest from England fans travelling abroad.

British police "spotters" from the National Criminal

Intelligence Service football unit will be in Rome to point out potential troublemakers as soon as they set foot on Italian soil. It is expected they will be kept under surveillance by plain-clothes police until they leave the country.

Detective Inspector Peter Chapman, head of the NCIS football unit, told a press conference in London yesterday: "Category B individuals will fight if they meet the opposing supporter who is of the same mind. Some 90 per cent of it is alcohol-related."

Although their identities were known to police, Mr Chapman refused to name the troublemakers, saying: "It enhances their reputation within the football world, then everybody wants to take them on."

Blair asks Gates to help link schools to Internet

BY NICHOLAS WAIT AND PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

TONY BLAIR will today enlist the support of Bill Gates, the world's richest man, for a £100 million scheme to link Britain's 32,000 schools to the Internet by 2002.

In a move timed to coincide with the first day of the Conservative Party conference, Mr Blair will welcome the billionaire chairman of Microsoft to Downing Street to set the seal on the Government's National Grid for Learning initiative.

As the two men hold talks in Downing Street, Ofcom, the telephone regulator, will announce that it has reached agreement with BT and cable companies to provide cheap lines for schools.

At their meeting in Downing Street the Prime Minister will brief Mr Gates on his plan to provide £100 million of public money to allow every school in Britain to buy the latest technology to link up to the Internet by 2002. At the moment only 6,000 schools have access.

The Prime Minister's National Grid for Learning scheme will be a network of educational material on the internet to help pupils of all ages. The scheme will help pupils studying information technology in the National Curriculum and will also help with the core skills of numeracy and literacy.

Mr Blair, who outlined his initiative to last week's Labour Party conference, hopes that companies such as Microsoft will provide the

equipment for the scheme. A Downing Street spokesman said: "We are not favouring any one company. But the Prime Minister is meeting Mr Gates because he is keen to talk to people who are at the forefront of the technology that will be able to help him achieve his aim."

After his meeting with Mr Gates, the Prime Minister will travel to a West London comprehensive school for the formal launch of his National Grid for Learning scheme consultation paper.

Mr Gates will be on a one day visit to Britain, will travel from Downing Street to Cambridge, where he is expected to announce a scheme to fund teacher training in Britain.

Britain already has the best computer-to-student ratio in the world with an average of 85 computers at every secondary school, one for every nine pupils.

Primary schools have one computer for every 18 pupils, compared with one per 500 pupils in Germany.



Gates: to have talks at Downing Street today

Major was ready to hand over to Clarke

Continued from page 1

contested by the former Prime Minister. But according to Lord McAlpine, a former Tory treasurer who became Sir James's right-hand man, Mr Major reached an agreement with the businessman at a meeting in October 1995.

Lord McAlpine writes: "Major told Goldsmith that he, too, wanted a referendum on Europe and that he was trying to achieve one despite the opposition within his party. He then asked Goldsmith to help him by holding his campaign, at least until Christmas to allow him some time to work on his colleagues. Goldsmith agreed."

Sir James believed he had a deal, but by the end of January 1996 there was no movement. A concerned Sir James arranged through an intermediary to talk to Mr Major again.

Lord McAlpine writes: "On the telephone, Mr Major spoke lucidly and persuasively. He asserted that he would offer a full referendum on Europe very soon, but to succeed he needed Goldsmith's co-operation."

Sir James agreed to hold off again. But still there was no

sign of the referendum. Then in March Mr Major offered not the full referendum but the plebiscite on a single currency in the event of a Cabinet decision to go in.

Lord McAlpine writes that this "treachery" was all too familiar to those who had been duped by Mr Major before. "Nevertheless we were genuinely dismayed when it became apparent that Major had no intention of keeping his bargain with Goldsmith."

Mr Major told friends last night that the claim that he had offered - or been prepared to talk about - a referendum on Britain's relations with Europe were "complete rubbish".

Mr Major's successor William Hague last night told party professionals that members might be able to take part in referendums on central policy matters such as the European single currency.

In a distinctly Blairite message to the annual dinner of Tory agents, he said that conference week had to be one of reform and renewal as Conservatives had "hard choices" ahead of them.

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Adams to confirm democratic intent

Sinn Féin seeks to reassure after 'smash Union' speech, says Martin Fletcher

FULL-SCALE peace talks open at Stormont today, with Gerry Adams striving to defuse a new row about the extent of Sinn Féin's commitment to peaceful democratic methods.

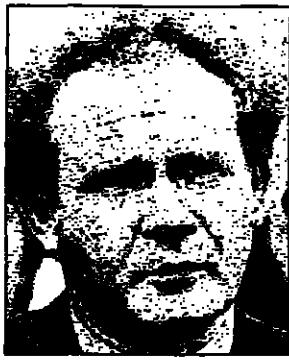
At the weekend, Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, declared that his goal in the negotiations was to "smash" the Union. "We have not struggled for the last 27 years against the might of the British government, the British military forces, sometimes the Free State government and the British government to take one step towards consolidating partition on this island," he told a republican rally in Coalisland, Co Tyrone.

But last night Sinn Féin released a partial text of the opening speech that Mr Adams will deliver today in which he insists that Sinn Féin "is absolutely committed to democratic and peaceful methods of resolving problems". The Sinn Féin president says that while his party will be "seeking to promote the

broad nationalist objective of an end to British rule in Ireland", its objective would be "to achieve through dialogue among the Irish people an agreed Ireland".

He speaks of a "huge gap of mistrust between nationalists and Unionists" that "must be bridged", and of reaching an accommodation in which both traditions feel secure.

But even before Mr Mc-



McGuinness said he wanted to smash Union

Guinness's comments. Ulster Unionist Party leaders were adamant that Sinn Féin had no interest in a negotiated settlement, and that the only possible agreement to emerge from the talks would be with the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party.

Reg Empey, an Ulster Unionist negotiator, said that Mr McGuinness's "rantings" were designed to placate supporters unhappy at the ceasefire and thus "a sign of weakness". Peter Robinson, of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that it was plain that Sinn Féin would accept only a united Ireland.

Lord Alderdice, leader of the Alliance Party, said that Mr McGuinness's remarks showed that the Sinn Féin leadership "does not yet realise the kind of democratic process which they have joined". He said: "These talks are about building a new stable, peaceful, democratic future."

On a BBC Radio Ulster yesterday, Mr McGuinness

conceded that "a tamer word such as 'end' the Union would have been more appropriate", adding "but that does not change the Sinn Féin message. Sinn Féin is an Irish republican party; we believe that British rule should end."

In Belfast today, the parties will set out their formal negotiating positions for the three strands of the talks — one dealing with internal political arrangements for Northern Ireland; another with North-South relations; and the third with relations between Dublin and London. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, will not have returned from Washington, where he is having discussions with members of the US administration.

The Irish Justice Minister, John O'Donoghue, will lead Dublin's delegation, replacing the Foreign Minister, Ray Burke, who is attending a funeral. Dublin emphasised last night that his absence was not connected to allegations that have been made against him.



Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, on Tyneside yesterday. She will be at Stormont for the talks today

Why Unionists find republican charm offensive

Mutual trust between the participants is the key to success at the peace talks, says Martin Fletcher

IF HUMAN relations count in politics, the auspices for the full-scale peace talks opening at Stormont today are bleak.

In the month since Sinn Féin's historic admission to the Castle Buildings, the Ulster Unionists have fiercely resisted what they consider a devious republican charm offensive designed to break down their defences.

For at least three days a week they have to share the same building as Gerry Adams and his colleagues and, although they have offices on different floors, contact is unavoidable. Sinn Féin has more than 50 members accredited to the talks. They spread across the delegates' restaurant. They hold open doors for the Unionists, address them by their first names and try to engage them in conversation.

On one occasion Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Féin MP, pursued Ken Maginnis, the Unionist MP for Fermanagh, across the car park saying "Ken, why won't you shake hands? One day you're going to have to talk to me." Mr Maginnis was heard muttering, like a mantra, "I don't talk to murderers".

Sinn Féin spokesmen insist their policy is merely to be friendly and courteous and to "give people all the space they need to come round", but the Unionists say otherwise. "It's a mixture of charm and menace," said one "psyching out the enemy".

The Unionists treat the "Shinners" as if they do not exist. They refuse to speak to them. They avoid eye contact. In plenary meetings they address only the chairman. After briefing the press one night David Trimble, the party leader, saw Mr Adams approaching the media room. "He said 'Right. Let's go out. Don't be intimidated' and walked straight past," an aide recalled.

One lunchtime, Jim Gibney, a member of Sinn

Féin's national executive, left the restaurant just as Mr Trimble was entering. "I said 'Good afternoon, Mr Trimble. How are you doing?' He just put his head down and walked in." There are hints of a thaw in relationships between other parties. Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the nationalist SDLP, has to sit at the negotiating table next to John White, a member of the loyalist Ulster Democratic Party, who stabbed one of his friends to death in 1973. They talk, though not about the murder. "It's difficult, but the reality of political life is you can't choose your opponents," said Mr Mallon.

David Ervine and Gusty Spence, Progressive Unionist Party leaders who have both been jailed for loyalist paramilitary crimes, politely exchanged greetings with Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness when they encountered each other in the coffee bar one day. On the night of the breakthrough that made the full-scale peace talks possible, Mr Ervine stopped John Hume, the SDLP leader, in a corridor and said: "Thank you."

Government officials and other talks participants say progress depends on an element of trust developing between old foes and they doubt Unionists will be able to sustain their abstract hatred of the "Shinners" week after week, month after month, if forced to deal with them in person.

But the Unionists insist that the IRA ceasefire is bogus. Mr Maginnis, who has lost more than 200 constituents to the IRA and been targeted himself, said he would be "the last to suggest time doesn't heal, but there's certainly no healing process as far as myself and Sinn Féin-IRA is concerned... The scorning and disdain one has for them is hardly measurable it's so deep."

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Al Fayed team 'lied' over last words of Diana

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

MOHAMED AL FAYED yesterday faced another damaging row over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, after a spokesman for the Paris hospital where she died contradicted the millionaire's claim to have passed on her last words.

The day before the funeral of the Princess, Michael Cole, Mr Al Fayed's spokesman, said that the owner of Harrods had been approached at La Pitié Salpêtrière hospital on the day of her death "by someone... who helped the Princess during her final hours".

Mr Cole said that the Princess's "final words and requests" had been passed on by Mr Al Fayed to someone close to the Princess whom he refused to identify.

Thierry Meresse, head of communications at the hospital, yesterday said the story of the Princess's last words was "completely false" and "an invention by Mr Al Fayed's entourage".

The denial sparked an angry response from Mr Cole, who said that legal moves were under way in Paris "to find out why this was said and on what basis".

The hospital official said that the Princess never regained consciousness after she was admitted to the hospital on August 31, and added that "Michelle Bollet", the nurse he said had been identified by an Al Fayed lawyer as having heard the Princess's last words, did not exist.

"To make the story more credible, the name of a nurse was given," M Meresse said.



Cole declined to name source of story

Wee Wee Frees attack funeral for 'superstition'

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE ultra-strict Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland has criticised Earl Spencer, Elton John, the Dean of Westminster Abbey and the public for the way in which they mourned the Princess.

The Rev Neil Ross, of Dingwall, Ross-shire, a leading light in the small Calvinist church known as the Wee Wee Frees, says that people showed "a dismal lack of spiritual understanding" and acted almost as if the Princess should be worshipped like a saint.

In the October edition of *Free Presbyterian Magazine and Monthly Record*, Mr Ross writes: "To show proper civil respect at the death of those of high status is one thing, to speak of them as if they were to be worshipped is deplorable."

While expressing sadness at the "horrible circumstances" of the Princess's death, Mr Ross accuses the clergy at her funeral of "Romish superstition" because of the way they addressed not God but the deceased.

He says the Dean, the Very Rev Wesley Carr, spoke to the Princess as if she was alive saying: "Diana, our companion in faith and sister in Christ... Earl Spencer is also criticised for speaking directly

The publisher of *Diana, Her True Story* said yesterday that he had paid James Colthurst, a friend of the Princess, to be the intermediary between her and Andrew Morton, the book's author. Michael O'Mara said that Dr Colthurst had not sought payment. Earl Spencer is understood to have dropped legal attempts to stop publication of the revised edition.

"We do have a nurse with that surname... but not the same Christian name." He added that the nurse called Bollet who does work at La Pitié Salpêtrière, one of 10,000 members of staff, was not on duty that night, does not work in the ward where the Princess was treated and could not have met her.

Members of the Spencer family have also taken issue with claims that the Princess uttered any last words. Mr Cole yesterday declined to identify the source of the story: "We have never mentioned any person or their gender or identified them in any way."

The Al Fayed camp has declined to say whether the source was a hospital employee, nor where or when the Princess's supposed "last words" were spoken. "Mohamed Al Fayed was the first person to arrive at the hospital from Britain," Mr Cole said. "A third person introduced him to this person who wanted to approach him. He took that in good faith and discharged his duty."

"There was no reason to want to invent this, and it's malicious and unkind to suggest otherwise," he added.

M Meresse said he had decided to refute the claims made by the Al Fayed camp only after Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the crash, was flown back to Britain last Friday.

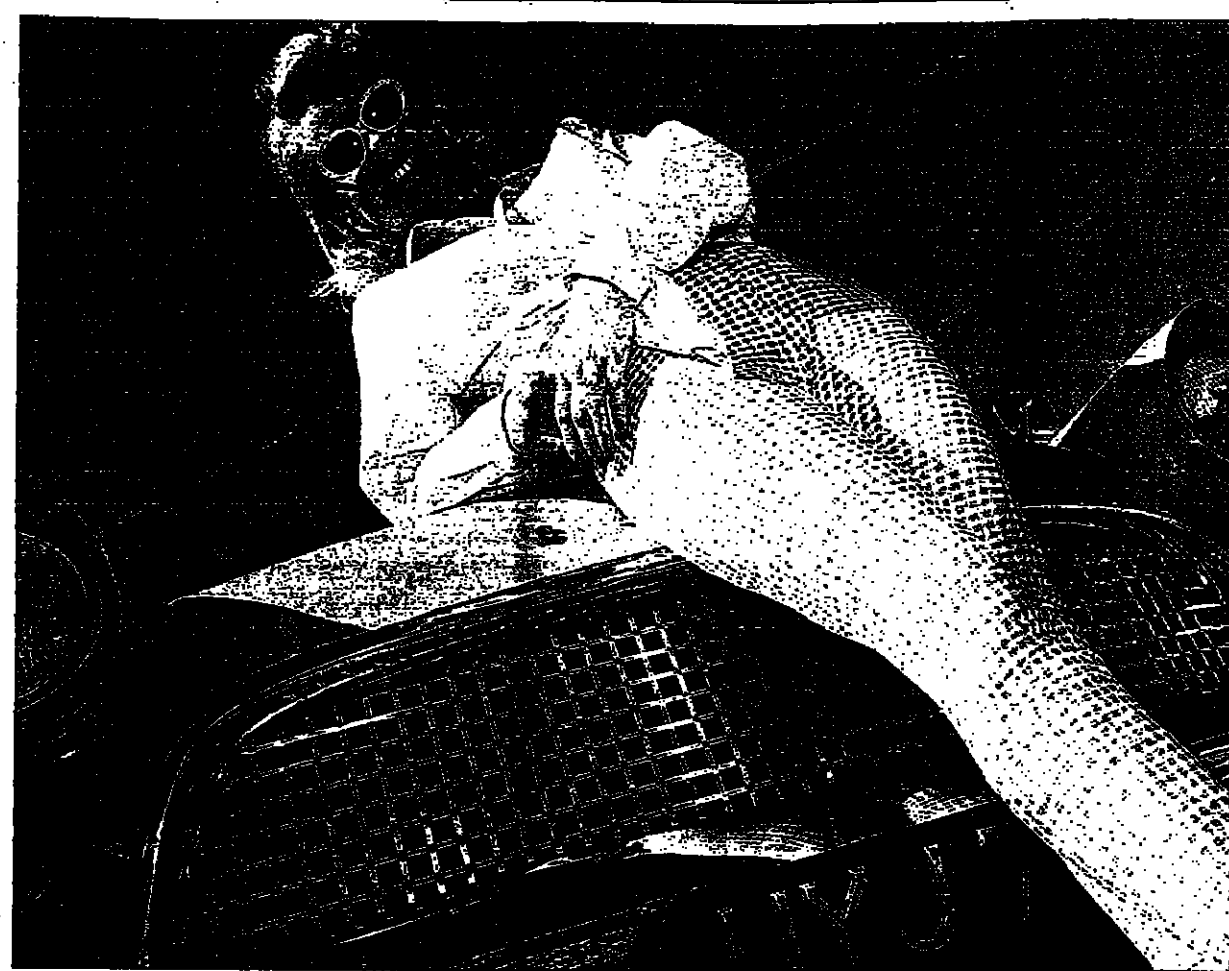
Mr Al Fayed's spokesmen also strongly denied reports of a series of clashes with the hospital over moving Mr Rees-Jones to a private hospital and allowing lawyers to see him. Mr Cole said relations with the hospital had always been cordial.

The dispute over the Princess's "last words" is the

latest in a series of public relations rows involving Mr Al Fayed. Immediately after the crash, Mr Cole accused photographers following the car of behaving like "Red Indians" and of direct responsibility for the deaths of the Princess, Dodi Fayed and the car's driver, Henri Paul.

But as the investigation continued it became clear that the photographers were some distance behind the car when it crashed. Medical evidence showed that M Paul was three times over the legal drink-driving limit. Mr Al Fayed's spokesmen first demanded additional tests, and then fell silent as the focus switched to the possible responsibility of the Ritz for allowing M Paul to drive.

Libby Parves, page 20
Letters, page 21



Joanne Watts, who often dressed as Monroe for classic car shows, disappeared on the way to her shop

Marilyn Monroe lookalike vanishes

THE husband of a missing Marilyn Monroe lookalike spoke yesterday of his fears for her safety. Gary Watts, 33, said that his wife, Joanne, who often dressed as the star for 1950s classic car shows, had been her usual happy self when she left their home in Gosport, Hampshire, on Saturday to visit a fancy dress shop she owned.

"She told me she was going to go to a book fair in Alverstoke, then go on to the shop. She would have very little money on her. She just went out in jeans and a shirt."

Mr Watts has kept his wife's disappearance a secret from their children Jody, five, and Jasmine, eight.

Gosport police are appealing for two of her friends, Claire and Sarah, from the Hilsa area of Portsmouth, to contact them. Mrs Watts, 35, is 5ft 5in tall and was driving a blue Fiat Strada Cabriolet, registration B131 XOW.

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Elton John: song was offensive, says clergyman

Mother behind anti-drugs campaign was heroin supplier

She showed off her son's body to warn his friends but hid truth about herself, reports Simon de Bruxelles



Thummler: drug dealer

A WOMAN who launched an anti-drugs campaign after her 14-year-old son died of an overdose was yesterday convicted of supplying heroin.

Tracy Thummler, 35, displayed her son Damien's body to his friends in an attempt to scare them away from drugs after his death in July last year. But Thummler, of Nantyglo, South Wales, was herself a dealer and heroin user with a £30-a-week habit.

Yesterday she admitted possessing and supplying heroin at Newport Crown Court. David Webster, for the prosecution, said police

moved in after a tip-off that drugs were being sold from Thummler's home. A buyer told detectives how she let him in to the house and took him upstairs to see her other son, Luke. The buyer paid for a £5 deal, which was handed to him by Thummler. Shortly afterwards police raided the house and arrested both Thummler and her son.

Mr Webster said: "She said in interview that she did not take drugs herself and had no knowledge of her son's activities."

But two months later, Thummler was stopped in her car as she drove home from Bristol and drugs squad

officers found 565mg of heroin on her. "She was arrested and admitted she had smoked heroin for six months," Mr Webster said. "She had bought the heroin that day in Bristol and spent £30 a week on her own consumption."

Judge Tom Crowther put Thummler on probation for 12 months. Although the offences were "not trivial," he said they were not serious enough for prison. He told her: "I should give you the opportunity to take advantage of the support of the Probation Service and demonstrate that you are capable of breaking this noxious habit and

leading a more satisfactory and happy life in future." At an earlier hearing Luke Thummler admitted supplying heroin and was sent to a young offender institution for four years.

Damien died from an overdose of methadone, a heroin substitute prescribed to his brother. Before Damien's funeral Thummler invited his friends to see his body in a coffin at her home.

She warned the youngsters: "If you take drugs you'll end up the same way as Damien. Say no to drugs. It's an evil trade."

She backed a "Shop A Dealer" telephone hotline which the public could use to pass on information to police.

In an interview last November she said: "Luke had been doing very well and was nearly off drugs when Damien died. He idolised his brother and is determined to get rid of the problem that took Damien away. I wander around expecting him to come in laughing like he used to. But he's gone and the drug pushers are still out there. They wait to pounce on other children."

"Before the drugs he was a very loving little boy. He liked swimming and reading the Bible."



Damien: overdose at 14

I did not break the law, Porter tells High Court

DAME Shirley Porter, the former Conservative leader of Westminster City Council, yesterday declared her innocence as she began her legal challenge to the £31 million surcharge imposed over the "homes-for-votes" scandal.

She is one of several former councillors and officers who claim that the district auditor, John Magill, acted unlawfully and unfairly by accusing them of "wilful misconduct" and "disgraceful and improper gerrymandering" over the sale of council homes in marginal wards between 1987 and 1993. In May last year, Mr Magill made the councillors and council officials "jointly and severally" liable to repay the amount he estimated to have been wrongly spent as they sold council homes to people thought to be likely to vote Conservative.

Dame Shirley, 66, heiress to the Tesco shopping empire, stood on the steps of the High Court in London yesterday and said: "I am absolutely innocent and I am here today to clear my name."

She was cross-examined by Alan Jones, QC, for the district auditor, who claimed that she had expected everyone — councillors, officers and private consultants alike — to

Westminster's

former leader

challenges £31m

surcharge.

Stephen Farrell

reports

push through Conservative policies. This, he said, included seeking to increase the Tory vote in eight marginal wards, by ensuring that there were "the right sort of people in the right areas".

Dame Shirley insisted that she had always acted properly, telling the court: "At no time would we have undertaken any policy which was in any way illegal. I have a very healthy respect for the law. I have been a magistrate for many years. The last thing I would wish to do is to lead a council into anything illegal. We were the number-one council and still are."

Mr Jones accused her of blurring the "great divide" between politics and council

business by asking employees to draft reports and carry out other work on party political matters as opposed to legitimate council work.

When council employees were unable to provide justifications for Tory policies, he claimed, private consultants had been asked to produce "fancy economic reasons" for packing key seats with pro-Tory council home buyers.

He accused Dame Shirley of being present in September 1986 when a group of consultants was told the aim was to "push Labour voters out of marginal wards". Dame Shirley denied this, saying: "The aspirations were to encourage the right sort of people to come in rather than to push people out." Asked by Mr Jones who she viewed as the "right sort", she replied "good citizens".

Dame Shirley insisted that policy had never been put into action without taking advice from council officers and lawyers to make sure it was legal.

Dame Shirley said that she had no real recollection of many conversations and meetings because they had happened ten years ago, and she had tried to "blot out" many of the events because of a hostile media attack on her. The hearing continues.



Dame Shirley Porter: denies charges at the High Court in London

Counsellor in debt to dealer grew cannabis

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A DRUGS user who reformed and became a counsellor to help others was "blackmailed" into growing cannabis after a chance meeting with someone from his past life, a court was told yesterday.

Aaron Gledhill was reminded that he owed £12,000 to the LSD supplier when he met him during a prison visit. The 32-year-old father of two was told his family would be harmed if he did not comply.

Police, tipped off to the sophisticated cultivation system he set up in a flat he owned near his home in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, found more than 80 cannabis plants. There were special lights and heaters, water pumps, timers and trays, all designed to keep the flat at the right temperature and humidity. The power supply had been tampered with to hide the amount of electricity used.

Gledhill, who admitted growing the banned plants and fraudulently extracting electricity, was jailed for 18 months by York Crown Court. Sentencing him, Judge Arthur Myerson, QC, said: "You chose to put on the market that which you were being paid to prevent. You betrayed your job as a narcotics counsellor."

Gledhill, who was born and bred in York, had been a

reduction officer with the North Yorkshire Probation Service and his marriage has broken down.

Stuart Roberts, for Gledhill, said he had gained a diploma in community and health work from Hull University and had been appointed by North Yorkshire Probation Service to give advice on harm reduction.

After the prison visit in 1996, "he was in a situation where he was dealing with criminals, dangerous and serious drug dealers, who had fingered him. They had made threats to him regarding his wife and family and the only way he could wipe out the debt was to grow cannabis on a commercial scale."

He agreed it was a difficult story to accept, but said Gledhill had devoted his life to helping people and it was inconceivable he would have done what he did without the threats.

Roger King, North Yorkshire chief probation officer, said: "North Yorkshire Probation Service regrets very much that a member of staff employed by the agency on behalf of the health authority became involved in drug-related crime in this way. The service will be looking at the way it monitors staff."

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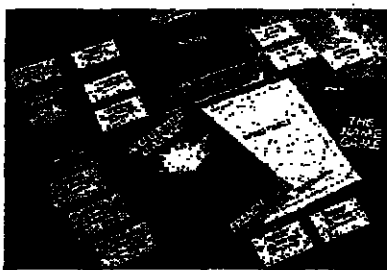
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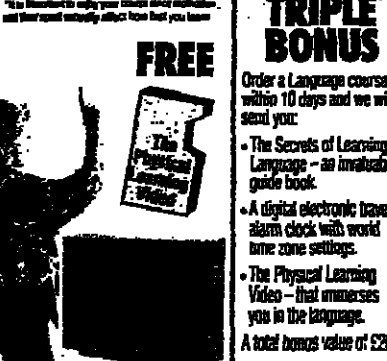


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BBC marks anniversary with celebration of past

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE BBC is celebrating its 75th anniversary this month with a free CD-Rom for schools and colleges, a host of retrospective programmes and the opening of a £5.5 million visitor centre.

Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcasting, said yesterday that the BBC was about to enter a new era of digital broadcasting and "we have to seize the future but we must also celebrate the past."

The CD-Rom will feature events of the past 75 years, including the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech and Neil Armstrong's moon landing. It will be distributed free to all secondary schools and main public libraries. It will also be free on request to junior schools and further education institutions.

The CD-Rom was described yesterday as "our birthday present to the future generation" to mark the inception of the BBC on October 18, 1922. The corporation is combining the retrospective with heavy lobbying to protect its future.



The Coronation is to feature in the retrospective

A series of short films are to feature figures from politics, the arts and entertainment endorsing the public service values of the BBC. Those to appear include Mikhail Gorbachev, Shimon Peres, Whoopi Goldberg, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Dame Vera Lynn, and the Dalai Lama.

Queen opens the BBC Experience, a permanent visitor centre at Broadcasting House, on October 29.
 A £5 coin commemorating the Queen's golden wedding anniversary went on sale at post offices yesterday. The Royal Mail coin, which is legal tender, is the first to feature joint portraits of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Brahms going for a song at £600,000

BY JOHN SHAW

THE manuscript of two classical sonatas by Brahms is being sold by the descendants of the clarinetist who inspired them for about £600,000.

The 67-page work — Opus 120 no 1, in F minor, and Opus 120 no 2 in E flat major — was given to Richard Mühlfeld, the greatest clarinet virtuoso of his day, and has remained in his family ever since.

In 1890, 4 years before he met Mühlfeld, Brahms, then 35, declared he had written his final work. But after hearing him play, he was so uplifted that he was prompted to start composing again. He signed the manuscript, which is still in good condition, "in heartfelt and thankful memory."

Simon Maguire of Sotheby's in London, which is handling the sale on December 5, said: "The sonatas are perfect examples of pure instrumental work written by Brahms. They are his last two chamber works, and have a central place in 19th-century chamber music."

Vicar locked out in organist's last stand

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN ORGANIST locked a vicar out of church at the weekend as she staged a one-woman sit-in to protest at its closure.

Pam Hodgson held out for two hours at St Thomas's in Finchfield, Waverhampton, peeling the bell and playing the organ. With the key jammed in the door, she ignored appeals from Colin Gough, the team rector, to come out. He had to change into his vestments in the churchyard as 50 other protesters made their feelings known about the closure.

Miss Hodgson, 64, from Finchfield, finally relented as the 4pm service was due to start. She said she felt she had to do something as she had

strong feelings for the church she had attended as a child. "This was my last stand. I locked myself in at 2pm, blocking the key in the door with some wood so they couldn't push it out. I certainly don't regret my actions. We are all being locked out of God's house."

Feelings were also running high outside, and at one point Mr Gough ripped down a banner protesting against the closure of the 122-year-old building. He said the church was closing because it needed a lot of work doing and the number of churches had to be reduced because of costs. He added that he hoped the protest had helped people to get things out of their system.

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Gucci lover is banned from keeping horses

Animals starved as family wrangled over fortune. Lin Jenkins reports

HORSES that had belonged to the late Paolo Gucci, millionaire grandson of the fashion founder, starved as the family wrangled over his fortune. One animal died and six had to be destroyed.

Yesterday Gucci's mistress was banned from keeping horses for five years. Penny Armstrong, 28, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to 11 pure-bred Arabs by omitting to provide care.

Armstrong ran out of money to feed horses on the 97-acre Millfield stud when Gucci, 64, died in October 1995 without leaving a will, prompting years of "extraordinary, complex proceedings at mind-boggling cost".

Horsham Magistrates' Court was told. The mother of Gucci's two youngest children, aged 2 and 4, she lives on £20 a week child support and faces eviction from the manor house that she shared with him at Rusper, West Sussex.

An RSPCA inspector, Carol Lampert, and a veterinary surgeon, Brian Green, found horses starving when they examined all 110 at the stud in January this year. A two-year-old chestnut filly, Sonika, was lying in its own dung, unable to get up, emaciated and close to death.

David Buck, for the prosecution, said: "Initially she

appeared to be dead. We established that she was alive, but the dirt and faeces around the animal indicated that it had been recumbent for a long period and had had convulsive leg movements. It was put down on the spot."

A post-mortem examination found the filly's stomach was 20 per cent of its normal size and that the animal had probably not eaten for two weeks. Eleven other horses, all youngsters, were removed by the RSPCA for intensive care. They were emaciated, with bones protruding.

Armstrong was prosecuted over nine of them. She was ordered to pay the RSPCA compensation of £15,573 and

costs of £5,640. One filly foal, named Paloma, collapsed as it was led to the lorry. A two-year-old filly, Jezabel, was said by the vet to be markedly undersized. Despite being given drugs and put on a drip, it was put down ten days later after getting to its feet only once.

Aimar, a yearling colt, had to be destroyed within a week of leaving the stud. A post-mortem examination found a complete lack of body fat and a stomach half its normal size. Mr Green concluded it had eaten nothing for at least two weeks.

Four horses recovered and were returned to the stud, which was disbanded a few

months ago. The livestock raised £300,000.

Gucci left the family fashion empire about 15 years ago after a row with his father Aldo, but in 1987 he inherited an estimated £26 million when the family sold the business.

The court was told that he had begun divorce proceedings from his wife Jennifer in the United States in 1991, naming Armstrong. He sought voluntary bankruptcy after a protracted dispute with his wife over support for their daughter Jemma, 14.

In February 1994, Gucci was made bankrupt and the accountants KMPG were appointed receivers of the estate. The Sussex house was owned by a Liberian company and the stud operated by a Liechtenstein company. KMPG allowed Armstrong to run the stud.

Matthew Pascall, representing Armstrong, who was legally aided, said that she had long stopped taking a salary of £150 a week. She lived off child benefit and her pensioner parents, who shared the house. There was a prospect of a claim on Gucci's estate over two properties in Italy which could net \$1.1 million (£680,000). "It could come to naught and will not be resolved in the next few years," Mr Pascall said.



Aimar, one of the horses that had to be destroyed



Penny Armstrong, Paolo Gucci's mistress, admitted causing suffering to 11 horses

Quantock stag hunt is facing forestry land ban

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

DEER hunting in the West Country is facing a new threat less than a week after the National Trust decided to maintain its ban on the sport on land it owns.

Officials from the Forestry Commission, which owns or leases some 2.5 million acres of land in Britain, meet today in Chesham, South Wales, to consider whether to allow deer hunting to continue in its woodlands.

If the commission opts for a ban, it would deal a possibly decisive blow to one of the three remaining stag hunts, the Quantock, which has traditionally hunted over 2,000 acres of its land.

Tom Yandle, chairman of the Masters of Deer Hounds Association, said: "Combined with the loss of nearly 900 acres of National Trust land, a ban by the commission would make hunting on the Quantock Hills so difficult that it would be impractical to go on."

While awaiting the commission's final decision, which is expected by the end of the month, the Quantock is continuing to hunt without encroaching on commission territory, but this is not considered viable in the long run.

Two other stag hunts in the area, the Devon and Somerset and the Tiverton, would suffer some inconvenience if they could no longer ride through commission woods, but they would still have access to other territory to hunt over.

The commission, like the Ministry of Defence, has been reviewing all hunting licences on its land since July after being instructed to do so by the Government, which believes state-run land should not be used for the sport.

Both the ministry and the commission have provisionally renewed licences for foxhunting, while the review is carried out.

Dog club official jailed for cruelty to pregnant badger

By PAUL WILKINSON

A DOG club official has become the first person in Britain to be prosecuted for illegally transporting a live badger. RSPCA officials believe Desmond Joseph Mackin, of the Fell and Moorland Working Terrier Club, was intending to use the heavily pregnant animal for baiting with dogs.

He was jailed for four months by magistrates in Darlington who told him they had a duty to protect those who could not protect themselves,

and to impose sentences which acted as a deterrent. The maximum sentence is six months.

Julian Wilson, for the prosecution, told how Mackin, 43, a lorry driver of Bainbridge, Co. Down, was seen by police on a country road in January near Bowes in Durham. Three other men were spotted in another car nearby.

When the officers searched his lorry the badger was found tied in a sack hidden between wooden pallets in the rear of the vehicle. A vet found it had a broken leg. It had

been in the bag for a long time and had not been fed or watered. The injury was a result of "rough handling" and soil on its coat suggested it had been dug out.

Mackin, who was travelling to a job in Europe, said he found the badger on a roadside and had picked it up thinking it was dead, but Mr Wilson said the animal's injuries were not consistent with it being hit by a vehicle.

Mackin admitted possession or control of the animal, which also includes the offence of transporting

a live badger, under the 1992 Badgers Act, and cruelly terrifying the creature in breach of the 1911 Protected Animals Act. He also admitted a separate charge of carrying a CS gas canister which was found in his cab.

John Sheehan, in mitigation, said: "My client was not responsible for the animal's injuries. He believed the badger was dead and put it in the sack in the back of the wagon intending to return home and have it stuffed. He is delighted that the animal has made a full

recovery. He is a decent and genuine family man, but accepts that what he did was wrong. He is deeply ashamed and sorry for what he has done and there will never be a repetition."

Mackin was also banned from keeping pets for five years and the CS spray was confiscated. Steven Eastwood, the magistrates' chairman, said: "This crime involves cruelty to a heavily pregnant badger subject to prolonged captivity and stress."

Two weeks after the badger was

rescued it gave birth to three cubs. All have been returned successfully to a sett in a secret location.

After the case, Mike Butcher, an RSPCA inspector, said: "We applaud this sentence. It sends out the message that cruelty to animals cannot be tolerated. This man is an official with the terrier club and we believe he would know the law."

"There is money and gambling involved with badger baiting but a lot of it is just macho bloodlust. It is well organised with people travelling many miles to take part."

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Hug for Blair heralds closer ties with Russia

FROM JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN MOSCOW

TONY BLAIR and President Yeltsin yesterday heralded a new era of close relations between Britain and Russia with glowing tributes and a bear hug at the Kremlin.

The Russian President showered Mr Blair with praise, describing him as "young, energetic, very vigorous and thrusting". Mr Blair said that Mr Yeltsin was one of the most "dynamic and capable leaders" in the world. Both leaders were evidently determined to improve relations between the two countries, which cooled during John Major's premiership.

After a one-hour meeting — twice as long as had been planned originally — the two leaders signed a joint agreement to combat organised crime and drug trafficking through sharing intelligence.

President Yeltsin emphasised the importance of the agreement relating to tackling Russia's mafia. "I love young, clever energetic people," said Mr Yeltsin. "He is the youngest British Prime Minister in many years, the most energetic, thrusting politician, who

has enormous support in the United Kingdom and in the Labour Party."

The Russian leader also surprised some of those in Mr Blair's entourage by quoting chunks of the Prime Minister's conference speech last week in Brighton over lunch. "The personal friendship is certainly growing. Of course, age is something of a difference between us but we are meeting here and we intend to go on meeting more often and informally," President Yeltsin said. "Age is something of a difference between us but in terms of spirit and energy I wouldn't say I am lagging behind."

A slightly embarrassed Mr Blair returned the compliment, expressing his personal admiration for what Mr Yeltsin had achieved for Russia and the world. "It's been an extraordinary story of progress and reform, and could not possibly have been carried out without his personal character and drive," said Mr Blair. "Whatever the difference in age, I know I am in the presence of one of the most

dynamic and capable leaders the world has produced in recent times."

Under the security deal, British information officers will be trained in Russia and Russian officers will visit London. Police in both countries will co-operate in fighting international terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and other serious crime.

M16 is particularly concerned about drug trafficking and prostitution, which are increasingly prevalent in European capitals and are organised by the Russian mafia. British sources say that this is destabilising Russia and would present a danger if it were allowed to infiltrate Britain. During the meeting, President Yeltsin made clear his own determination to crack down on the mafia.

Mr Blair used the meeting to promote closer business and trade links. He breakfasted with British businessmen and promised an extra £500 million in export credit. He also pressed for a multi-billion pound deal for British Petroleum to explore oilfields



President Yeltsin embracing Tony Blair before their Kremlin meeting yesterday during the Prime Minister's one-day visit to Moscow

in Russia. Later the Prime Minister showed British support for Russia's early inclusion in the club of world leaders by unveiling a logo for the Group of Eight industrial nations, which includes Rus-

sia. Mr Blair showed Mr Yeltsin the proposed G8 logo for next May's summit in Birmingham.

Russia has long wanted to join the Group of Seven, linking the United States,

Britain, Germany, France, Japan, Italy and Canada, and making it a G8. As a sign of support to President Yeltsin and his reforms, Russia has been included in political debates at recent meetings but

has not taken part in economic discussions. Mr Blair said that he welcomed Russia "next year to participate in the G8". He also told reporters he was optimistic that Russia could soon join the World Trade

Organisation. During a tour of the city, the Prime Minister visited a new shopping centre in Manezh Square, which will contain Mothercare and Next shops when it opens for business next month.

Bubbly soap star bursts on to stage in three short takes

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

TONY BLAIR not only brought drama to his visit by appearing in a radio soap opera but also proved he could be a star, according to the programme's director.

In a plot destined to grab audience attention, he stops his motorcade and helps an unemployed seamstress to pick up apples she has dropped, while gently lecturing her about the importance of education. He then sends her home in an official car.

Mr Blair clearly enjoyed his fleeting appearance in *Doki 7*, *Podzvezd 4* (House Seven, Entrance Four). The scene was recorded, somewhat incongruously, under a portable office on stilts in the British Embassy compound opposite the Kremlin.

"It is important," he told reporters afterwards. "We have got a tremendous opportunity here in Russia. There is a lot of interest in Britain, there is a lot of confidence in Britain abroad, and there is a lot happening in Russia."

"If we can use our position to help British trade, British

investment and Britain's standing in the world, then great," he said. "If it takes starring in a soap opera, then I'm delighted."

It took one rehearsal and two takes because of technical problems to record the scene for the series, which is produced with BBC help. The episode will be broadcast on Russia's Ekho Moskvy station today.

Slightly straining credibility, Mr Blair needed no interpreter to understand what Varya, the seamstress, was telling him, although the interpreter standing by translated his remarks.

Mr Blair told Varya they had to do more for their young people, because so many of them had no work.

The director, Mikhail Rogovoi, praised Mr Blair and said he could always turn his hand to drama.

"The last take was absolutely perfect because the Prime Minister did everything we wanted," he said. "A clever man can be an actor — or do any work he wants to do."

APPLES AND CORE POLICIES

Scene 3: Outside street. Prime Minister, interpreter, policeman, Varya. Background noise of street.

Policeman: Where are you going? Lady with the bag! Varya: But this is a pedestrian crossing! Your traffic lights have probably broken.

Policeman: Back on the pavement. I said! Varya: Here, stop pulling my bag! Ah, now look what you've done. The handle's broken! My apples!

Policeman: Never mind your apples! Varya: I won't be a minute. I'll just pick these up.

Prime Minister: (approaching) Are you all right? Varya: (picking up apples) No, no, don't trouble yourself.

Policeman: (going off) You can sort this out on your own. PM: Have you picked up all your apples?

Varya: Mr Blair? Very nice to meet you. And I am Varya Vasilevna. Take some of my apples. They're very good. No chemicals in them, straight from our orchard in Yelets.

PM: (surprised) Aren't there any apples in Moscow? Varya: Of course there are! It's just a bit expensive.

PM: I see. Do you find it quite difficult to get by? Varya: Me? No. Not at all.

PM: How are you coping with all the changes? Varya: We live very well. We have everything we want. We've got a boy and a girl. Do you have a family?

PM: I have three children. Varya: We should do more for our children.

PM: I agree. We've got to do more for our young people. PM: In my country we've said the priorities are: Education, education, education. It should be the same everywhere.

Varya: It would be good if everyone thought like that. I'm going to be a grandmother soon, and I can't imagine how we are going to live.

PM: A grandmother? Congratulations! Varya: Olga's due in March. What are you doing in Moscow?

PM: I'm here on business to meet some of your political leaders. I'm just on my way to a meeting now.

Varya: I won't hold you up then. PM: Your bag's broken. Why don't we drive you home?

Varya: (embarrassed) Oh no, really I couldn't. I'll manage. PM: It's no trouble at all. Where do you want to go?

Varya: House Seven, Entrance Four (laughing).

British PoW papers handed back

BY JILL SHERMAN

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday formally handed Tony Blair copies of wartime diaries and documents relating to British prisoners of war which had been held in a Moscow vault for 50 years.

The papers, which include personal writings and photographs lost during the war, were assembled by the Germans and taken to Moscow by the Soviet Army after the capture of Berlin. Mr Yeltsin's decision will allow surviving servicemen and their families access to emotional and harrowing accounts of life as a prisoner during the Second World War.

Britain has been negotiating for the release of the archive material for more than three years. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin

gave Mr Blair the first instalment of copies of the diaries, but promised that arrangements would be made for the originals to be handed over once it had been agreed legally.

Accepting the copies yesterday, Mr Blair said that it was a "wonderful gesture". He added: "This is a very emotional moment for many of our citizens."

One of the diaries handed to Mr Blair concerned a young British officer, Michael Duncan, who was captured in 1940

but escaped the year after. Lieutenant Duncan, an officer in the Oxford & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, came from the Home Counties; he died more than 20 years ago.

He describes the worst period of his captivity when he

had nothing to do ... our food ration is one loaf to five days, which works out at four medium slices per day. That and a pint of very watery soup per day and five or six potatoes, very old and usually very bad and a mug of coffee.

"According to the doctor, the diet is enough to keep us alive, provided we take no violent exercise. This, anyway, is out of the question as two or three times round the 200-yard field is about all the exercise we can manage in a day. By the time you have done that and climbed upstairs to your room you feel as if you have climbed a mountain." The lieutenant adds: "If only we had books and papers ... as it is, we have to kill time between meals somehow, so we play endless games of cards and become cabbages."

Our food ration works out at four slices of bread a day, six old, bad potatoes and a pint of watery soup

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New attack on Clinton over 'lost' sound in fund video

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LEADING Republican opponents, accusing the White House of obstructing justice and claiming to have discovered a "smoking gun", yesterday leapt on the belated release of videos detailing President Clinton's controversial coffee mornings.

In tapes that include separate footage shot by a White House camera team at 44 of the coffee meetings in 1995 and 1996, Mr Clinton is seen greeting visitors but is neither observed nor heard asking for contributions to his re-election campaign. An excerpt from one tape, however, shows the President shaking hands with John Huang, the fundraiser at the heart of the controversy over irregular contributions to the Democratic campaign. It is the only portion on which

there is no sound, prompting immediate speculation of a Watergate-style cover-up.

The tapes, which were soon made available to television stations throughout America, provided a comprehensible public portrait of Mr Clinton mingling with wealthy donors. Like the earlier revelation of his scrawled approval for the use of the Lincoln Bedroom and other White House attractions by donors, the tapes brought a new resonance and momentum to the complex and torpid inquiry that has dominated political activity in the American capital.

They were made public as Harold Ickes, the dismissed former White House Deputy Chief of Staff and the Administration's self-proclaimed "di-



A video showing President Clinton at one of 44 White House coffee mornings in 1995 and 1996, attended by fundraisers and donors to his re-election campaign.

rector of sanitation" takes the stand to give long-awaited and perhaps critical testimony in the Senate hearings. Republicans have seized on the opportunity to question why, eight months after all documents had been subpoenaed by the Justice Department, the tapes were suddenly made public just hours after Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, had effectively exonerated Mr Clinton of any irregular fundraising activities at the White House. They called for Ms

Reno to reconsider her decision not to request a special prosecutor for the President.

"At this point, with the White House not turning over evidence again and again, I think you really may have crossed the line of obstruction of justice," said Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican senator.

"First they don't give us materials while we're questioning witnesses. And now the tapes are turned over. If they're innocent recordings,

why didn't we have them a long time ago?"

The White House claims the late discovery of the films was an honest mistake. Made by the White House Communications Agency, a secretive Pentagon unit, the tapes were found by chance, according to senior aides. An initial search of the agency's database, they claim, had employed only the names of individuals but a staff member had made a later check and came across the word "coffees". One scene

from December 1995 showed Don Fowler, the Democratic National Committee chairman, being offered five cheques by an unidentified person. But Mr Fowler appears to decline, saying: "I'm sorry... as soon as this thing is over, I'll call you and we'll get it set up."

The Huang segment, however, is the one that immediately caused the greatest stir. "We may have a Mary Rose Woods problem here," said one Senate investigator, allud-

ing to President Nixon's secretary who claimed she was responsible for an 18-minute gap on his Watergate tapes. This is a missing 60 seconds.

At issue is whether Mr Clinton broke election law by soliciting funds on federal property during the events held mainly in the Map Room but also in the Oval Office and the Roosevelt Room.

The tapes may reveal evidence of illegal behaviour by Mr Clinton or may simply reinforce the White House

assertion that they were simply "listening sessions".

No matter what the content, however, they have given Republicans an easy means to resurrect questions about the President's personal involvement and a visible barb with which to attack Ms Reno's decision to pursue a 60-day inquiry against Al Gore, the Vice-President, while maintaining that Mr Clinton needed no further investigation.

Leading article, page 21

Nobel for Alzheimer's find

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THIS year's Nobel Prize for medicine has been won by an American biochemist hailed for discovering "an entirely new genre of disease-causing agents" — including those responsible for BSE or "mad cow" disease.

The \$1 million (£625,000) prize went to Professor Stanley Prusiner of the University of California at San Francisco for his work on potentially deadly proteins known as prions, thought to be the cause of brain-wasting illnesses in humans as well as animals, and a key to understanding Alzheimer's disease.

Professor Prusiner was credited by Sweden's Karolin-

ska Institute, which awards the prize, with isolating prions and demonstrating how they can be transformed from benign proteins present in every brain to cell-destroying agents that leave brain tissue dead.

Inspired by the death of a patient from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, whose symptoms include severe dementia, Professor Prusiner discovered prions, and found that by folding on themselves they can perform a "Jekyll and Hyde" switch. Twenty people, most of them British, died last year of a rare version of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease thought to have been transmitted from cows infected with BSE.

The institute said his discovery "provides important insights that may furnish the basis to understanding biological mechanisms underlying other types of dementia-related diseases, for example Alzheimer's disease". His work "establishes a foundation for drug development and new treatment strategies".

The prize caps a quarter of a century of research for Professor Prusiner, much of it controversial. Some experts still doubt that prions, which unlike bacteria and viruses contain no genetic material, could by themselves mount such disabling attacks on brain tissue.



Prusiner: inspired by the death of a patient

WORLD IN BRIEF

Lawyers seek \$2.8bn slice of tobacco win

New York: An increasingly bitter tussle is being fought between the State of Florida and its lawyers who are demanding a quarter of the \$11.3 billion (£7 billion) it won from the tobacco industry in August (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Their pre-trial contract apportioned a 25 per cent fee package if Florida won its suit. But the settlement, over compensation for spending on the treatment of smoking-related diseases, was made out-of-court. It calls for "reasonable attorneys' fees" to be paid by the tobacco industry, with the sum to be determined by independent arbitrators. Peter Antonacci, Florida's Deputy Attorney-General has told the lawyers that the 25 per cent slice of an out-of-court settlement was "a little unreasonable". However, five of the 11 lawyers involved have filed liens against the first instalment of \$750 million paid by the tobacco industry.

Taleban bans animal pictures

Kabul: The Taleban religious army has ordered all pictures of people and animals destroyed, declaring them offensive to Islam, Afghan authorities said. Until now the Taleban had forbidden the photographing of people but did not outlaw pictures of non-Muslims. This also was the first time the Taleban edicts on photography included animals.

Few Afghans have cameras or pictures of their ancestors. While few stores in Kabul have carried pictures of people since the Taleban takeover one year ago, fitness centres have displayed pictures of bodybuilders. It was not immediately known what the punishment would be, but minor offences usually carry a beating. (AP)

Pro-Hitler general dies at 85

Bonn: A former Nazi general, who helped to change the course of history by fanning the 1944 coup attempt against Hitler in Berlin, has died in Spain aged 85, the German Foreign Office confirmed (Deborah Colclough writes). Otto Ernst Remer, right, who fled Germany in 1944 after being convicted of inciting racial hatred and publicly denying the deaths of Jews in the concentration camps, settled in Andalusia and was later confined to a wheelchair. (Obituary, page 23)



British head for Rockefeller

New York: A Birmingham-born academic has been named as the next president of the Rockefeller Foundation, one of the largest philanthropic organisations in the world (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Gordon Conway, 59, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex in Brighton, will be the first non-American to head the New York-based foundation, set up in 1913 by John D. Rockefeller. He will take up his post in April next year. An agricultural ecologist, Professor Conway said he was "immensely honoured to be working for a unique global foundation". Last year alone it disbursed grants and fellowships worth more than \$107 million (£668,000).

Heiress who defied Nazis dies

Paris: Mary Jayne Gold, an American socialite who helped the painters Marc Chagall, Max Ernst and about 2,000 Jews and anti-Nazis to escape from France during the Second World War, has died aged 88 near St Tropez. Ms Gold, who used some of her fortune to finance the flight of artists and intellectuals, had suffered from pancreatic cancer. Thos Gold, her great-nephew, said in Los Angeles. The Chicago heiress recorded her times in the book *Crossroads Marseille 1942*, published in 1992. She never married and had no children. (AP)

China punishes former chief

Beijing: Zhao Ziyang, the disgraced Chinese Communist Party chief, left, has been barred from receiving visitors as punishment for writing to the party leadership last month condemning the use of force to suppress the Tiananmen student demonstrations of 1989, Chinese sources said. A weekly golf game offering him an occasional escape from virtual house arrest has also been cancelled. His letter angered President Jiang Zemin, the sources said. (Reuters)

Court adjourns Basque trial

Madrid: The trial on terrorism charges of all 23 members of the leadership of Herri Batasuna, the Basque separatist party, started in the Spanish Supreme Court yesterday (Giles Trumble writes). Demonstrators jeered at the politicians, who face charges of collaborating with the Eta terror group. Herri Batasuna asked that a judge be changed, forcing an adjournment. The request was rejected and the trial will restart on Monday.

Bad weather delays homecoming for astronaut Foale

BY TOM RHODES

MICHAEL FOALE, the British-born astronaut whose space mission was plagued by problems on Mir, experienced another hitch as the shuttle returning him to Earth was kept in orbit waiting for a chance to land last night.

Atlantis, the US space shuttle, had been scheduled to arrive at the Kennedy Space Centre the previous evening, but its seven-member crew, including Dr Foale, 49, who is returning after more than four months on the beleaguered Mir space station, was forced to remain in space due to poor weather conditions.

Thick cloud over Cape Canaveral, combined with darkness on Sunday night, forced NASA to abandon re-entry at the last minute. Last night it was still not certain whether the shuttle would land in Florida or at an alternative runway at Edwards air force base in California.

"Preliminary weather forecasts indicate that conditions

at the Kennedy Space Centre are still exhibiting some cloudiness," said Ellen Hawley at NASA. "Weather conditions at Edwards indicate clear skies but the potential for high winds."

Crews were scrambled to the West Coast yesterday in the event of a California landing, although NASA officials prefer to bring the shuttle down in Florida, avoiding the nearly \$1 million cost of ferrying it across the country.

The delay brought added tension for Rhonda Foale, the astronaut's wife, and their two small children, Jenna and Ian, who have spent the last months watching the Mir mission's long catalogue of problems.

□ Koryolov, Russia: A cargo craft failed to uncouple itself from Mir yesterday and a Russian space official said it was unlikely another supply craft, due to reach Mir today, would be able to dock on time. (Reuters)

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Croat suspects taken to face war trial

By Tom Walker

TEN Bosnian Croat war-crime suspects were yesterday flown by a Dutch military transport plane to The Hague, after assurances that their trials would begin within five months.

Their departure brings the ailing Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian President, and his Zagreb Government into line with Western policy. International pressure will increase on Belgrade and Slobodan Milosevic to push Bosnian Serb war criminals — including the two top names on The Hague's list, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic — in the same direction.

The Serbs are the only party among Bosnia's former warring factions not in compliance with the International Criminal Tribunal.

The most wanted man on yesterday's C130 Hercules was Dario Kordic, charged by The Hague as responsible for some of central Bosnia's worst atrocities, committed during the bloody fallout of former Muslim and Croat neighbours in the Lasva Valley in 1992 and 1993.

The former journalist said in an emotional farewell to friends and government officials at Split airport that the group left "with a clear conscience before God and the Croatian people".

Mr Kordic achieved notoriety in April 1993, when a British colonel in the then United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia helped to uncover a grisly massacre of Muslims in the village of Ahmici. A local Bosnian Croat Army (HVO) roadblock attempted to stop Colonel Bob Stewart and his patrol searching the village where they later uncovered 104 bodies, many trapped and burnt in their cellars.

"I don't need the permission of the bloody HVO, I'm the United Nations," Colonel Stewart stormed in an incident broadcast around the world.

Mr Kordic, who labelled central Bosnia's Muslims as rogue Croats of Islamic faith, was believed to have been in charge of the HVO's cleansing activities in the area.

Israeli agents freed as Gaza greets sheikh

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL last night vowed to continue covert missions against terrorists in third countries after two Mossad agents, who bungled an attempt to assassinate a Hamas leader in Jordan, were returned by helicopter as part of a swap deal negotiated with King Hussein.

As the two agents were whisked away from an undisclosed Israeli airfield for a debriefing about the worst botched operation in Mossad's history, 22 more Arab prisoners were released from Israeli jails. Separately, the founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who was freed last week, returned in triumph to the Gaza Strip, where he vowed to continue the struggle against Israeli occupation.

After a wave of bitter criticism of the failed mission by Israel's left-wing Opposition and repeated demands for the resignation of Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Prime Minister, and Danny Yatom, the head of Mossad, Avraham Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister, said similar covert missions would continue.

"I think we, the Cabinet ministers, should think about that in the future, find out a way to destroy these people who want to use terrorism in

Israel... and I do not think we are going to close our hands from finding these people and killing them, wherever they are."

The unrepentant response of Mr Kahalani echoed the majority view among the public. A Gallup poll of 500 Israeli Jews for *Maariv* newspaper found 60 per cent against Mr Netanyahu having to resign over the affair, despite the clamour for his head from most Israeli commentators.

"Any Israeli Prime Minister... who cannot resist the temptation of playing James Bond in Amman is the epitome of irresponsibility and does not deserve to remain in office," wrote Yosef Goell in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post*.

In Gaza, as the 61-year-old quadriplegic spiritual founder of Hamas returned to a euphoric welcome, Israel's decision to allow him home was being hailed as a famous victory. "This is a big defeat for Netanyahu," claimed Khaled, a first lieutenant in Yasser Arafat's Palestinian police force.

Graffiti on the walls and thousands of posters proclaimed Sheikh Yassin, freed after serving eight years of a life sentence, as "the Sheikh of the Intifada".

Mr Kahalani admitted that

he would have preferred the influential sheikh to have remained in Jordan. But he acknowledged that his return to Gaza was part of the cost of securing the freedom of the two Mossad agents arrested carrying forged and invalid Canadian passports.

At a chaotic news conference in Amman before being taken from his wheelchair and put on a stretcher for the half-hour flight to Gaza, the founder of Hamas dismissed reports that Hamas had offered a ten-year ceasefire to Israel last month in exchange for being included in the peace negotiations.

"There will be no halt to armed operations until the end of the occupation," the charismatic but ailing leader said in a barely audible whisper. His remarks were then shouted aloud by an aide.

Notably absent from the Gaza celebrations was Mr Arafat, the Palestinian Authority's President, whose primacy among the Palestinians has been badly dented. He was involved in talks surrounding yesterday's formal reopening of Israeli-Palestinian discussions after a gap of six months. The arrival of the US special envoy, Dennis Ross, was overshadowed by other events.



A jubilant Sheikh Yassin, founder of Hamas, prepares to return to Gaza yesterday

Queen to discover a changed Pakistan

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

THE Queen and Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Islamabad today at the start of a two-week state visit to Pakistan and India. The itinerary takes the monarch into a world she will hardly recognise from her last visit to the sub-continent in 1983.

Many royal watchers in this poorest part of Asia want to know whether the Queen will change style and try some of the spontaneous gestures that made Diana, Princess of Wales so popular on her visits to the region — except among conservative mullahs in Lahore, who demanded that she should be flogged for walking into a mosque bare-armed.

South Asia is sensitive to the importance of this first foreign trip by the Queen since the death of the Princess, and both countries are striving to erase any trace of controversy. Pakistan, which the Queen last visited in 1961, is determined to keep its lunatic fringes in check and security will be massive, especially in Karachi, the commercial capital and something of an urban war zone.

The Queen has already achieved one act of temporary reconciliation by getting an agreement from Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistani Prime Minister, to join the company of political rivals she personally despises in order to participate in formal ceremonies.

Belgrade averts 'fascist' victory

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

WESTERN diplomats say political disaster in Serbia has been avoided by a hair's breadth as a result of the failure of Vojislav Seselj, the extreme nationalist, to gain victory in Sunday's presidential run-off. The poll was invalid because only 49 per cent of voters turned out.

In an election of spectacularly Balkan dimensions, independent observers claimed that desperate Socialists of President Milosevic of Yugoslavia stuffed ballot boxes to revive the flagging fortunes of Zoran Djindjic, their candidate. But once it became clear that Mr Seselj was ahead, the boxes were rapidly unstuffed to keep the vote beneath the 50 per cent needed for validity.

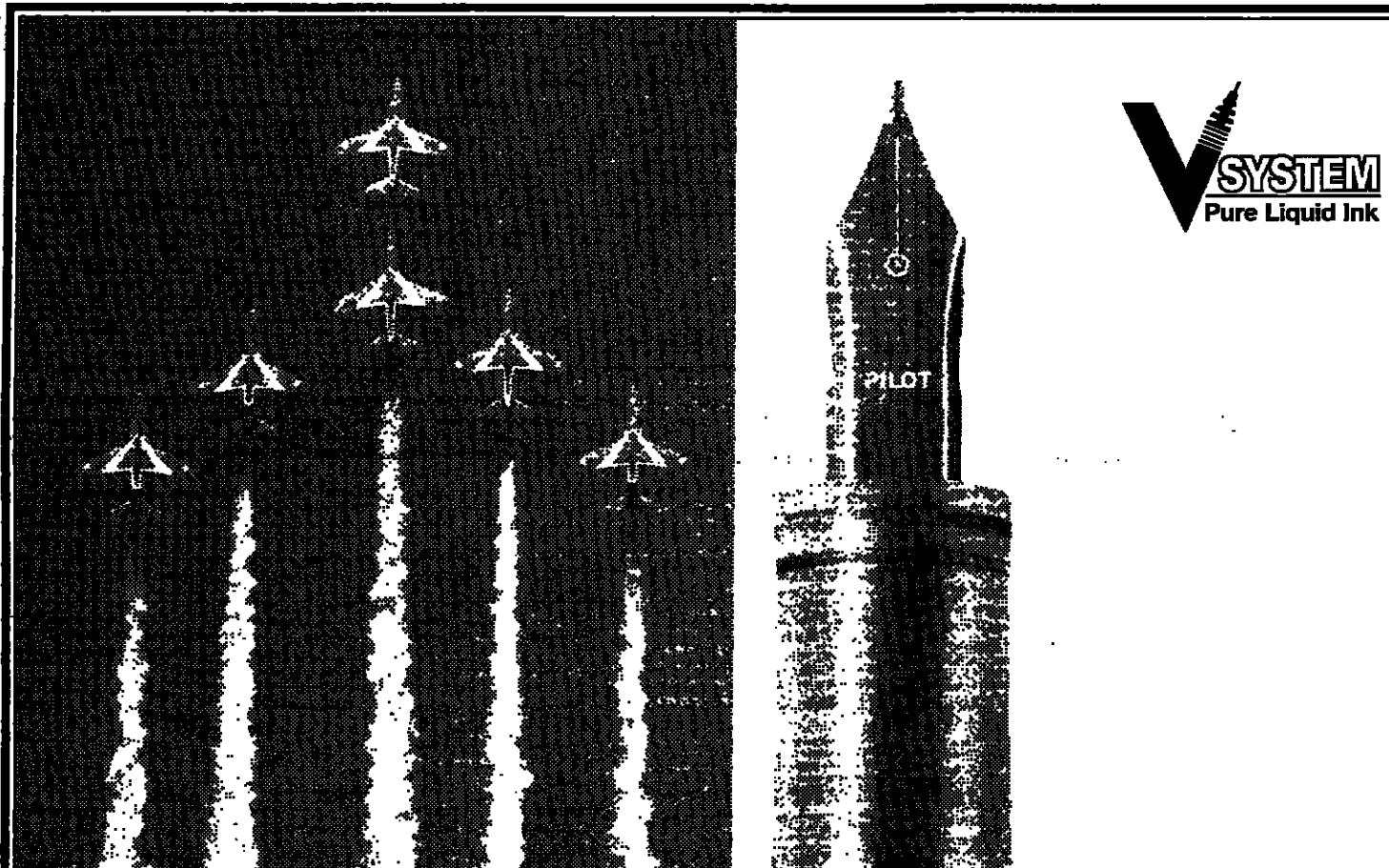
Mr Seselj is the one Belgrade politician who still espouses the politics of war. He believes in a greater Serbia comprising most of Bosnia and half of Croatia, and the tearing-up of the Dayton

peace accord. A European diplomat described him as a Frankenstein monster nurtured by Mr Milosevic, who had now become stronger than his creator thanks to "socio-economic conditions like those in Weimar Germany".

But yesterday a beaming Mr Seselj was basking in the glory of his unexpected success, although not as ebulliently as in the early hours of the morning, when it had appeared that he and his Radical Party had pulled off the impossible. "We were short by just 1 per cent," he told the independent Radio Indeks.

"But there is no reason not to be satisfied. In repeated elections the results of the Radicals will be even better."

Robert Gelbard, President Clinton's special envoy to Bosnia, in Belgrade for talks with Mr Milosevic, yesterday described Mr Seselj as "a fascist we couldn't work with".



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Ex-aide at Pentagon accused of spying

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A FORMER Pentagon lawyer and two other people have been arrested on charges of spying for East Germany during the Cold War, the Justice Department said yesterday. The three were due to appear before a federal court in Virginia on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage during the 1970s and 1980s.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested them on Saturday "in the Washington area" after two handed classified documents to FBI agents who posed as Russian and South African intelligence officers.

The case comes in the wake of several spy scandals, many involving senior government employees, which have shaken the intelligence agencies and defense and security departments. Intelligence officers blame the end of the Cold War, which has exposed some longstanding cases, while increasing the financial rewards of espionage.

According to the FBI, one of the three arrested, Theresa Squillacote, 39, worked as a senior staff lawyer in the office of a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. Her husband, Kurt Alan Stand, 42, works for a union representing food and hotel workers. The third, James Michael Clark, 49, is a Virginia-based private investigator. Mr Stand and Ms

Squillacote are also charged with attempted espionage and illegally obtaining national defence information. The maximum penalties for these crimes are life imprisonment and a \$250,000 (£15,000) fine, or death.

In Saturday's trap, Ms Squillacote handed over four documents classified secret: two versions of the Defence Department's defence planning guidance, a scenarios appendix and the Central Intelligence Agency's international arms trade report.

According to the affidavit, Mr Stand became an agent of the HVR, the East German intelligence service, in the early 1970s and recruited Mr Clark in 1976 and his wife between 1979 and 1981. When the two Germans united in 1990, the spies' East German handler tried to reemploy them to spy for the Soviet Union and then with Russia, the FBI statement says.

□ Fewer murders: Reports of serious crime in America dropped for the fifth year running, according to the FBI. Cases of murder fell by 9 per cent, as did violent crimes by youths. The White House attributed the fall to the 1994 crime legislation and to the 30,000 rise in the number of police and drug officers. Drug-related arrests jumped by 35 per cent between 1990 and 1995.



Peggy Ann Garner, left, in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, embodies the seriousness of yesterday's girls; Alicia Silverstone, right, today's self-infatuation in *Clueless*

Body before mind for naughty Nineties girls

Tunku Varadarajan on a new view of teen priorities

MOST adolescent American girls now suffer from "bad body fever", assessing their personal worth almost entirely in terms of the shape of their bodies, the author of a new book published in New York has argued.

Recent studies show that, by the age of 13, more than half of all American girls are unhappy with their bodies. By 17, that figure rockets up to 78 per cent.

According to Joan Jacobs Brumberg, a professor of history at Cornell University and the author of *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*, this deep dissatisfaction has sparked important philosophical changes in young girls.

Her most compelling observation is that the teenage definition of "goodness" and the way in which girls perceive it has altered profoundly over the past 100 years. Comparing adolescent female diary entries from the 1890s with those from the 1990s, Dr Brumberg notes how young girls a century ago saw goodness largely in terms of character. A typical entry from 1890 says: "Resolved to think before speaking. To work seriously. To be self-restrained in conversations and actions. Not to let my thoughts wander. To be dignified. Interest myself more in others."

Girls today see goodness largely in terms of the body, the figure and physical image. This is a diary entry from 1990, by a *fit de siècle* American

Everygirl: "I will try to make myself better in any way I possibly can. I will lose weight, get new lenses, already got new haircut, good make-up, new clothes and accessories."

Dr Brumberg argues that the whalebone corsets of the Victorian age — restrictive, uncomfortable and unnatural — have been replaced today by corsets of the mind. A "historical process", she says, has forced women to exchange "external controls of the body for internal controls". These historical processes include such factors as better nutrition and a decrease in infectious diseases, causing the average age of menarche — a girl's first period, to fall to just over 12. In the mid-19th

century, girls commonly started to menstruate at 15 or 16.

As Dr Brumberg points out, an American girl in today's "post-virginal age" is likely to be sexually active before the age at which her great-grandmother had even begun to menstruate. Yet this physical "speeding up" has not been matched by an acceleration in psychological development, leaving adolescent girls totally exposed to "manipulation" by "the consumer culture".

□ *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*, by Joan Jacobs Brumberg (Random House, New York, \$25).

Leading article, page 21

Moi bars Leakey's party from poll in Kenya

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

A DECISION by the Kenyan Government not to register Safina, the opposition party co-founded by Richard Leakey, the palaeontologist and conservationist, has been called "racism" by its leaders.

"President Moi has been practising racism," Paul Muite, a Safina leader, said yesterday. "It is not acceptable that Richard Leakey should have to step down for Safina to be registered."

Safina was told by the Registrar of Societies that its application was being rejected on the ground that the party's purpose was "prejudicial to or incompatible with peace, welfare or good order in Kenya". Under a government-approved reforms package, all party applications had to be processed by last Friday.

Safina (Noah's Ark in Swahili) has been a thorn in the side of President Moi and his ruling Kumu party since it was founded by Dr Leakey and Mr Muite in 1995. The movement declared war on corruption, lawlessness and falling standards in public life. Its leaders claim it is supported by millions of Kenyans eager for change in elections due before the end of the year.

The Kenyan decision was described as "worrying and depressing" by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, who ends a short visit to Kenya this morning. "The Kenyan Government knows full well there has been a change [in Britain's aid policy]. We'll be reviewing our country strategy on Kenya."

Clinton reveals credentials for squeaky green legacy

In the kind of coincidence which is the stuff of political dreams, Washington yesterday scorched in an Indian summer while President Clinton made his plea for action to stop the world getting even warmer. Speaking at a conference on climate change, in his old university in Georgetown, the President joked about "the hottest October day in years" as he pledged that the United States "must be prepared to commit to realistic and binding goals" on curbing pollution.



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

It is rare these days to see the President make a false step politically, so assured has he become in straddling both parties in Congress, and riding out the challenges of the assorted Paula Joneses and Janet Reno's laying siege to the White House gates. But Mr Clinton's sudden enthusiasm for "doing something about global warming" may prove that mistake.

Last week, he invited 100 television weather forecasters to the White House lawn for an impromptu lecture on the peril, urging them to spread the message through their channels. Asked where this passion has sprung from, his bemused aides said that the President is "thinking legacy": in the year or so before he is dubbed a lame duck, he is dreaming of ways he can clinch a place in the history books. He has seized on plans for a new international treaty on global warming, to be signed in Japan in December, as a perfect vehicle.

His enthusiasm even appears to eclipse that of Al Gore.

Having built his reputation as Mr Green, the Vice-President is now forced to practise the old-fashioned politics needed on the first rules of the campaign trail. That means courting heavy industry and the trade unions while his boss does the vision thing.

However, the President's impulse is politically fraught. If he does not deliver, he will have dashed expectations he has gone to some effort to raise. But if he is serious about committing the United States

to a battery of taxes and environmental curbs, these could damage the economy, and with it Mr Gore's hopes of reaching the White House.

The White House has just over two weeks to state its position before final talks on the Kyoto treaty. Behind the scenes, there is a stand-off between the Administration's economists, headed by Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, who fear the impact of higher taxes on the economy, and its environmentalists, headed by Carol Browner, of the Environmental Protection Agency.

In normal times, this would be no contest; the economists would win. But they have been startled by the President's commitment to the issue. He was spotted on holiday on Martha's Vineyard carrying the book *The Heat is On*, about the threat of carbon accumulating in the atmosphere; yesterday he spoke of his conviction "that the science of climate change is real".

In this Mr Clinton does, at least, have the backing of the majority of scientists, al-

though some notable researchers argue that even sharp cuts in emissions would do little to halt warming, given the carbon already in the atmosphere. But his claim that carbon emissions can be cut without hurting the economy has much less support.

It was relatively easy to "do something" about the threat to the ozone layer; safe alternatives to damaging chemicals were quickly developed. But the President's speech yesterday glossed over the fact that curbing carbon emissions, the byproduct of almost every use of energy, is harder.

Action would mean curbs or taxes on business, which would almost certainly be blocked by the Republican-controlled Congress. And it would mean raising petrol prices, now a fifth of British levels. For all the "green" urges which Americans confide to pollsters, they would sooner give up their guns.

The reason European countries look more restrained in their carbon emissions is because their sluggish economies have been left behind by the US boom. Mr Clinton might do better to suggest using American wealth to help poor countries such as China improve their energy efficiency, or to deal with the effects of global warming.

Curbs on carbon emissions would, in effect, be curbs on the US economy. That would be the greatest political misjudgment he has made in three years; it might also do little to solve the problem.



President Clinton listening to a speaker yesterday at a university conference on climate change

Japan attacked over plan to cut greenhouse gases

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE proposal for cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 5 per cent from 1990 levels provoked ridicule yesterday from environmentalists, with some challenging Japan's suitability to host this year's conference on climate change.

With less than two months to go before the Kyoto conference, a row with the European Union loomed over a Japanese plan that would allow countries to evade even a lenient target. Announcing Tokyo's proposal, Kaneko Muraoka, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, said the EU proposal for a 15 per cent reduction of the emission of three greenhouse gases by 2010 was "unfair".

Under the Japanese plan, industrialised countries would be required in principle to cut their emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide by an average 5 per cent relative to 1990 during 2008 to 2012. But developed countries would be free to set their own reduction goal on the basis of gross domestic product, population growth and per capita gas emissions. According to this formula, a country such as Japan — with a high GDP and good energy-saving record — would be allowed to set a much lower target.

Mr Muraoka said Japan would aim to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 25 per cent from the 1990 level, requiring the building of 20 nuclear plants to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. But government officials conceded

that growing public opposition to nuclear plants, stiffened by a series of nuclear mishaps, would make this difficult to achieve. Environmental groups in Japan and overseas said the emissions target was woefully inadequate to help to protect the global environment.

The proposal is an international disgrace, Greenpeace's climate policy director, said.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) described the plan as "scandalous" and called on industrialised nations to reject it.

Greenpeace Japan said that the country should lose the right to host the conference if it stuck to its proposal.

Japan hoped to win kudos at the Kyoto convention — officially titled the Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — which is intended to commit countries to binding targets for emissions reduction into the next century.

□ *Earthwatching*: Yesterday Toshiki Tsuge, the Japanese chief climate negotiator, flew to London to meet John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Environment Secretary, and Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister (Nick Nutall writes). The British side, which has proposed a 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide from 1990 levels by 2010, is expected to outline its concern over the Japanese plan.

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Deal the Tories never honoured

Former Tory party treasurer turned Referendum Party supporter, Lord McAlpine, on how Sir James Goldsmith thought he had a deal over Europe

James Goldsmith described the strategy which lay behind the Referendum Party (RP) thus: "I knew that if I charged like a bull, something would have to happen." In the event, he was right: things did happen. As a direct consequence of Goldsmith's intervention in British politics, the Conservatives, closely followed by Labour, offered a referendum before joining the single currency. Both parties also ruled out joining a federal Europe. These changes in policy are directly attributable to Goldsmith's bull charging around in the politicians' china shop.

Had James Goldsmith been a less scrupulous man, perhaps he could have achieved even more, the prize being a proper referendum on the substance of Britain's relationship with Europe. In fact, for a while, Goldsmith thought he was close to achieving just that and, at a key moment in the

senior statesman, Goldsmith's reply was: "But do you know where you stand?"

That evening Goldsmith and Major had little time to talk and no time together in private. So they agreed, in principle, that they should meet soon. Major issued the invitation and Goldsmith accepted. Some time over the next few days they did meet, almost certainly on the morning of October 20 or the afternoon of October 19, 1995. This was the most secret of meetings, and it was the first time that Major tried to grip the threat posed by the Referendum Party.

There was, at that time, no overt grassroots campaigning, just a methodical drive to recruit the party's 600 candidates, several hundred election agents and, by October 1996, more than 50,000 registered supporters (this figure grew to 230,000 by the time of the general election). Nor had there, until then, been any advertising apart from the RP's "statement of aims" in all the national newspapers.

So when Major and Goldsmith sat down to talk in late October 1995, the Referendum Party had only just begun to flex its muscles — muscles which, in the 1997 election, are generally accepted to have pushed more than 40 Tory MPs out of the Commons.

At this meeting, a very clear understanding developed between Major and Goldsmith. Major told Goldsmith that he, too, wanted a full referendum on Europe, and that he was trying to achieve one despite the opposition within his party. He said that Clarke and Heseltine were the prime opponents of a referendum. John Major then asked Goldsmith to help him by holding back his campaign, at least until Christmas, to allow him some time to work on his party colleagues. Goldsmith, a man temperamentally inclined to strike an honourable deal on a man's word alone, agreed to hold fire.

Goldsmith left this meeting believing quite clearly that he had a deal: the Referendum Party was put into slow motion. As the winter of 1995 dragged into the new year of 1996, the RP stuck doggedly to this course, always deliberately staying below the parapet, only Goldsmith occasionally popping up on television to deliver a broadside at politicians in general. Meanwhile, Goldsmith and his close advisers watched developments in the Tory party carefully and waited for the promised referendum.

By the end of January 1996, there was still no sign of Major's referendum. Goldsmith had spent Christmas in Mexico and was preparing to return to Europe to step up the RP's campaign. Now a second conversation between Major and Goldsmith took place, this time by telephone. An intermediary was involved, a friend of both men.

This intermediary arranged for the Downing Street switchboard to put the Prime Minister's call through to Goldsmith's estate in Cuernavaca, Mexico. This intermediary subsequently somewhat overreached himself, probably without any official endorsement, when he offered Goldsmith a peerage if he withdrew his party from the field. Goldsmith thought this was one of the funniest things that had ever happened to him, since to him a peerage meant nothing. As a reward for silence, it weighed little against his determination to give the British people their chance to vote on their country's position in relation to Europe. That this peerage was offered comes as no surprise, for "unauthorised" friends of John Major's were in the habit of offering peerages to industrialists, newspaper editors and, it seems, to all and sundry.



Sir James Goldsmith on the campaign trail, Rochampton, April 1997



Sir James with Lord McAlpine of West Green at the Referendum Party conference in 1996. Right: McAlpine claims that John Major failed to keep his side of the referendum bargain



three-year history of the RP, it seemed there might be no need to pitch more than 600 RP candidates against the main parties at the general election. Goldsmith believed he had obtained a full referendum because he believed the word of one man: John Major.

On October 16, 1995, James Goldsmith and John Major met face to face, for only the second time in their lives. The first occasion had been at a lunch at Downing Street shortly after Major became Prime Minister. The country was in the grip of the Gulf War and Jacob Rothschild had organised an opportunity for Goldsmith and a small number of others to exchange views with the Prime Minister on the geopolitics of the situation. Goldsmith, however, had not been impressed by the new Conservative leader. While some of the most penetrating minds in Britain discussed the war, Major was heard pronouncing on social security and benefit policy. He was, believed Goldsmith, quite clearly out of his depth.

The scene of Goldsmith's second meeting with Major, several years later, was very different. The occasion was Margaret Thatcher's 70th birthday and a special dinner party was held at Claridge's. All her old friends and most loyal supporters were present, including Goldsmith. The Queen attended, as did the Prime Minister, John Major. Just before the guests went in to dine, Goldsmith and Major came face to face among the throng. Curiously, Major greeted Goldsmith very warmly, calling him "Jimmy", although they had met only once before.

Goldsmith greeted the Prime Minister politely and they had a short conversation, during which Major gave an intriguing insight into his thinking, at least as far as formulating European policy was concerned. "Jimmy," he said, "you know, if you were to ask 50 of my backbenchers where I stand on Europe, 25 would say I was a federalist and 25 would say I was a Eurosceptic."

Major said this with an obvious look of pride, as if managing recalcitrant backbenchers was the supreme responsibility of Britain's most

orised" friends of John Major's were in the habit of offering peerages to industrialists, newspaper editors and, it seems, to all and sundry.

On the telephone Major spoke lucidly and persuasively, once again explaining his precarious position. He asserted that he would offer a full referendum on Europe, and it would be very soon, but to succeed he needed Goldsmith's co-operation. His argument went as follows: if he were seen to be capitulating under pressure from Goldsmith, it would be impossible to push the referendum policy past his divided and quarrelsome backbenchers. So would Goldsmith hold off a while longer? Once again, Gold-

would be a sting in the tail of this apparent volte-face.

The word was that, instead of offering a full referendum on Britain's relationship with Europe, Major was going to offer a much more limited plebiscite on the single currency. In this way, of course, he would neatly avoid reopening any discussion of the Maastricht treaty, which he had negotiated and had hailed as a personal triumph, and of Britain's growing political enslavement to the Brussels bureaucrats. At the same time, he could openly claim that the Conservative Party was the "referendum party". In short, Major's move would undermine the Referendum Party while offering something, but not much, to the Eurosceptics in his own party.

This was a scenario which had already been discussed in the Goldsmith camp. But in the event, it became apparent that Major had no intention of keeping what Goldsmith believed to be a bargain.

There is no doubt that many of us believed a referendum might even win the forthcoming election for the Conservative Party. Margaret Thatcher, while remaining loyal to her party, was of the opinion that a referendum on polling day would turn out discontented Conservatives who would otherwise have stayed at home. Myself, I believe that for Major to announce a referendum would have been a masterstroke. The Referendum Party would have moved to support the Conservatives, and disenchanted Conservatives might have voted for their own party so that their votes in the referendum would count for something.

Unlike Harold Wilson, Major was not prepared to allow an open debate in his Cabinet or in his party. Dissenting ministers would have to resign. A little later we discovered why: Major admitted to a national newspaper that if there were a referendum immediately, he wouldn't win. In other words, Major had made his position clear: there would be a referendum on a single currency only when he had marshalled all the power of Government and the political Establishment in favour.

So, for the second time, the RP delayed the start of its campaign. Ads were postponed, millions of campaign leaflets were held back and, most difficult of all, the growing numbers of prospective candidates and party workers were deliberately restrained from firing the first salvoes. The word in the ranks was: when are we going to start?

This delicate situation continued for some weeks more. Still there was total silence from the Conservatives about a full referendum. The situation was becoming perplexing and suspicions about John Major's intentions began to grow. Then, on March 10, word reached us from within Major's camp that there

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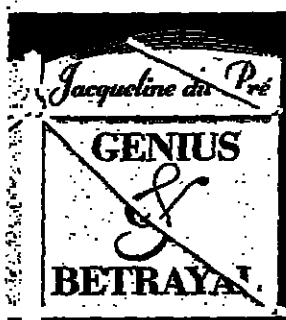
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Extracted from a new chapter from the paperback edition of *Once a Jolly Bagan* by Alistair McAlpine, published in hardback by Weidenfeld & Nicolson earlier this year at £20. The paperback edition will appear next year. © Alistair McAlpine, 1997.

'Jackie had begged him to go to bed with her'



In Day Three of Hilary and Piers du Pré's memoir of their sister, Hilary du Pré tells how Jacqueline's fight for survival meant giving the disturbed musical genius what she wanted — Kiffer, Hilary's husband

Danny was due to arrive on a late plane, so Kiffer set off to collect him from the airport, leaving Jackie and me to prepare supper. Everything was ready when, suddenly, the night was punctuated by the rhythmic hooting of the car horn. Quickly we lit the candles in the lanterns and ran out on to the terrace.

"Hi! Don't leave me, don't ever leave me alone."

"Jack," I said softly, stopping and looking straight into her eyes, "you know I won't. I shall stay with you all the time. Come on."

We jumped off the little wall and on to the road, to find Kiffer and Danny [Baronboim, the conductor and Jackie's husband] waiting for us. Danny and I embraced.

We opened the front door into the warm and glowing room, and we were welcomed by delicious smells of supper.

"Where's the bathroom?" said Danny, looking around.

"Come with me. There's no too here, I'm afraid," Kiffer led the incredulous Danny outside again and directed him to the bushes.

The moment he was out of the door, Jackie turned to me. "Hi! I don't want to see him. I'm going to bed."

"Oh no, you're not, Jackie, you're staying here. Just let Kiffer and me do all the talking."

We made supper as cheerful as possible, but Jackie refused even to look at Danny. He was upset. We had decided to give him our room downstairs: Jackie was to sleep in the blue room upstairs and we moved into the big room.

The next day was awful. I was the first to wake and went straight to the window. The

weather had changed, it was grey and wet, and the wind was coming from the south — a bad sign. It wasn't long before Jackie came in and sat on the end of our bed. She looked exhausted.

"How did you sleep, Jackie?" I asked.

"I didn't, and I'm going to sleep all day."

"Look, Jack," Kiffer said, tenderly, "Danny's terribly upset and he's trying so hard. Please try and be civil. We

heater I can have? I need to go back to bed." He retreated to his room, and Jackie to hers.

Somehow, Kiffer and I had to keep things afloat, so he went up to talk to Jackie and I went down to talk to Danny. Jackie was sobbing and confused, and refusing to come out of her room, or to have anything to do with Danny. Kiffer tried to persuade her to make an effort, whatever she felt, and to separate her feelings from her actions.

Danny was upset, too. He had arrived in good spirits, and had been full of determined hope. "Hilary, I feel terrible. What can I do? What have I done? I can't do anything right, and she won't even look at me."

"Danny, she's extremely exhausted, so obviously she's low. She needs time to recover, and plenty of space. It will be hard, but if you can give her that, it will be the kindest thing you can do for her. She is too depressed to be able to respond to you now."

But neither of them could see the other's point of view.

That evening, Danny's cold developed into flu-like symptoms, and, feeling thoroughly dejected, he went to bed. There was nothing he could enjoy — he was alone in his room and with only me to read or chat to him. He was totally cut off from his world.

The weather continued to be dismal and, a few days later, it was time for Danny to leave. Jackie refused even to say goodbye to him.

"Look after her, Hilary."

"I will, Danny..."

Danny was warm and friendly, although he was obviously sad and hurt. We embraced and he left with Kiffer for the airport.

Jackie was fighting to survive and she knew Kiffer was not overwhelmed by her; therefore, in a crisis, she could turn to him and he would be strong enough for her in a way no one had managed before. When I married Kiffer I had found my life and my love where I felt I could be free and where I knew I was safe. But the only way to make Jackie better was to give her what she wanted. And she wanted Kiffer.

As I struggled with myself, Kiffer said: "... and she's coming back tomorrow."

Jackie came to live with us at Ashmansworth. She cancelled all her engagements, and it was announced she was suffering from nervous exhaustion and would be resting until 1972.

There were four little children in the house as well as my mother-in-law and my grandmother. Privacy was impossible. Kiffer and I retreated to the upstairs bathroom where I perched on the edge of the bath, as he sat on the loo.

"Are you all right, Hilary?"

"I'm fine," I replied, with a pouting heart.

"Look, Hil, you must believe that I love you very much and I will never leave you. There is no question. I will never go."

"I know. And I love you, too. I know that Jackie needs to be here, but I shall still find it awful when you're together."

"Whatever happens, our aim in all of this is to help to make Jackie better. She needs us both."

Kiffer and I agreed Jackie should stay at Ashmansworth for as long as she wanted. But each day brought a different requirement, depending on her psychological state. The bathroom became our sanctuary whenever we needed to talk about her.

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huge emotional weight. Jackie slept in the attic, a spacious, light room where she could shut herself away if she needed to. Through the summer months, whenever she needed to be alone with Kiffer during the day, they walked over the fields and downs. Some excursions were longer than others, but invariably she returned in a much better frame of mind.

Kiffer always came to bed with me and, if Jackie needed

On the one hand I was glad she had turned to my family, for help, but, on the other, I felt robbed and lost. Sometimes I felt I was required to give up everything I loved to Jackie.

My way of dealing with the situation was to keep life as normal as possible. When Jackie was very depressed, sometimes crying all morning, I didn't want the children to be with her. They found themselves taken on lots of sprees. Alternatively, Kiffer and Jack-

But one day, my feelings overcame me. In the early morning, after a particularly demanding period, when Jackie had been in a slough of despondency, I suddenly found it all too much. Kiffer had been struggling to keep Jackie afloat and was feeling very weary himself, but I was beginning to struggle, too, and became engulfed with panic and tears. I ran out of the house, across the field to the hedge under the oak tree. I

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Despite Kiffer's reassurance, I was

couldn't help it. People might say "How could a marriage survive like that?" But Kiffer and I never let go of each other. We were still there together all the time. In the end, marriage, I think, is like a bank balance: the more you put in the more you can take out. This was an expensive time.

We had planned to go back to France in August, but Kiffer was still heavily involved closing down our poultry business. Mum and Dad were longing to go, so we decided that I should go ahead with them and the children, and that Kiffer would follow with Jackie two weeks later.

One morning, not long after our arrival at L'île, I heard the postman calling out. It was a telegram from Jackie, asking me to phone. Leaving the children with Mum, I tore down the mountain to the only telephone in Santissac. It took a while to ring through, but eventually Jackie and I were talking animatedly on the phone.

"Jackie, is everything OK?"

"Of course it is. Hil, I only wanted to chat — to hear your voice."

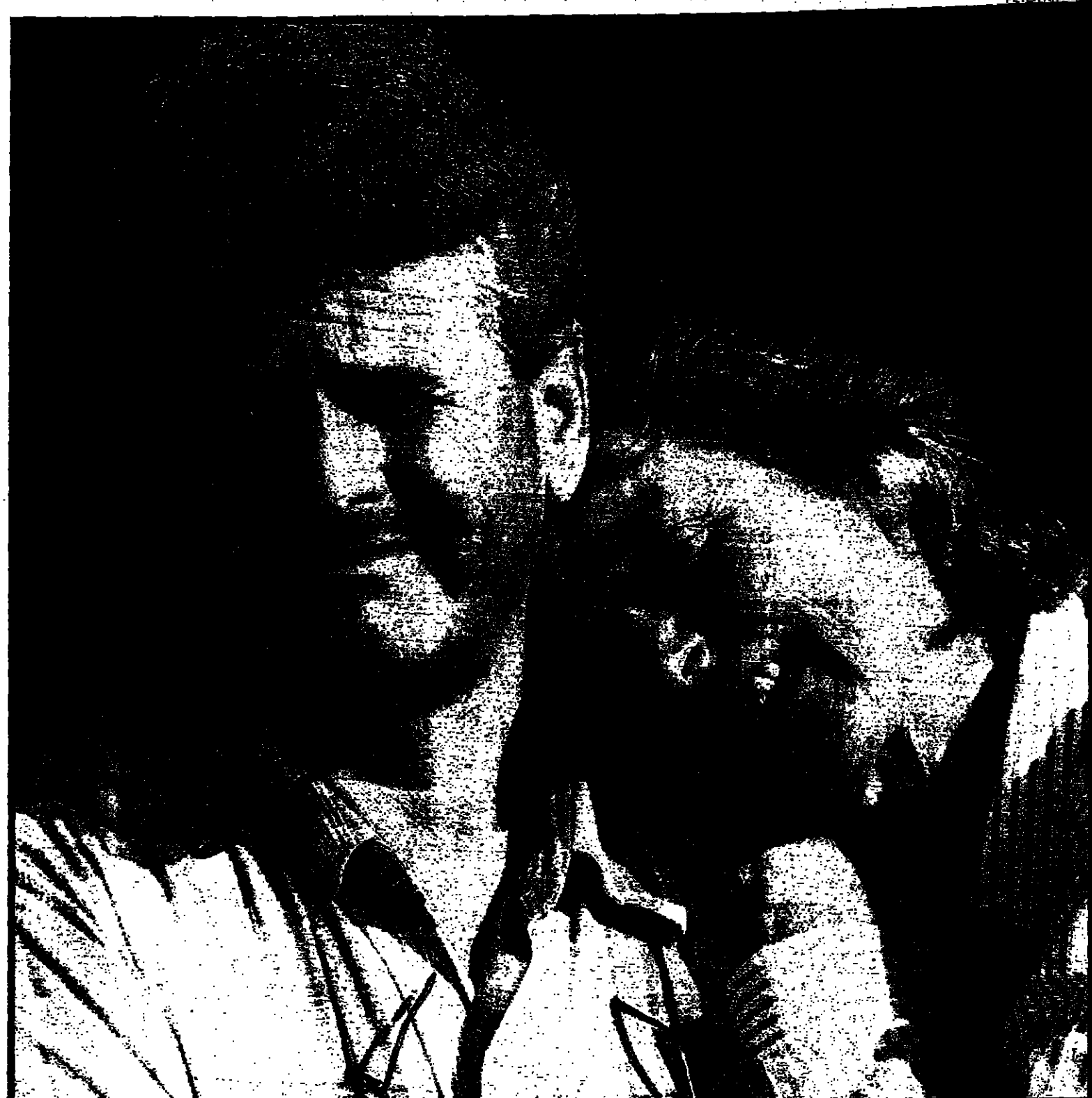
It was a Jackie special, an honest conversation telling me not only of her love for me but of her love for Kiffer. She had adored the weeks she had spent on her own with him. She knew it would be hopeless to try to hide the truth from me, and was tender and grateful for the time alone with him.

Despite her need to have Kiffer, she still missed me (as I always missed her) and we sent constant messages of love and reassurance to each other. But I knew, too, that she would find it difficult to be part of the extended family in France, and having to share Kiffer would be a problem.

I was right. It soon became clear that Jackie was finding being *en famille* very difficult. She had been alone with Kiffer for two uninterrupted weeks, and having to share him with me was neither what she wanted nor what she intended. She needed him exclusively, but that was not possible. It was possible, though, for Kiffer to slip into Jackie's bedroom during the night without anyone but me knowing. It was an absolute necessity for Jackie and helped her through the holiday.

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"Kiffer and I never let go of each other. Marriage, I think, is like a bank balance: the more you put in the more you can take out. This was an expensive time"

We returned to Ashmansworth where Jackie announced she needed to be alone for a day or two.

"I'll be back soon. I'll phone."

And she did phone, almost the moment she arrived in London. It was difficult to understand what she was saying, but she sounded dejected. Kiffer leapt into the car and sped off.

I knew he was doing the right thing, but it left me in a quaking mess. I felt so confused. I don't remember how I coped with the children.

When Kiffer returned in the evening, he took me into the garden and I sobbed and sobbed as he told me (but I had already guessed) that Jackie had begged him to go to bed with her — and so he had.

Although we had both expected this to happen, the shock for me was enormous. I wept in his arms, immensely relieved he had come home, but feeling utterly betrayed.

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THE PREMONITION

AT THE end of our garden in Purley, behind the Wendy-house and underneath the old apple tree, was a rather riotous fence.

Jackie and I discovered a loose strut which could easily be pushed aside. This was the gateway to our secret world.

We called it the bomb passage. It had been left alone since the war and was completely wild. For us it was a haven. No one used it, and we knew that we could not be seen. In spring and summer we could slip unnoticed through the fence and disappear.

It was in the intensity of our secret world that we shared our deepest thoughts and observations, which we vowed we

would never divulge. We talked profoundly about the future, too, although we were in no hurry to get there.

Grown-ups had to do

so much they didn't enjoy. We knew that Dad did not like going to work and that Mum loathed the social functions that he had to attend. She was supposed to go with him, but he usually went alone. Jackie and I were certainly in no rush to grow older.

It was while we were there one day, when I was 12 and Jackie 9, that Jackie suddenly looked at me with an intense expression and confided a whispered secret.

"Hil?"

"Mmmmm?"

"Don't tell Mum but... when I grow up, I won't be able to walk or move."

Neither of us stirred or spoke. We just stared at each other.

"I heard Kiffer coming upstairs. He came in and put his arm around me."

"Hil, where have you been? You look awful. Didn't you hear me calling?"

"Yes, I did," I whispered, "but I couldn't move." I couldn't speak properly, either; my voice was croaky.

"Kif, I'm so tired. I need you, too. I know that Jackie's extremely low, but she wants you for herself. She wants to take you away."

"Don't be so silly, Hil. You know perfectly well that I wouldn't let her do that. I wouldn't leave you."

He stood me in front of him with his hands on my shoulders.

"Now listen, Hil," he said, fixing me in the eye. "Our

pushed through a gap, buried my head in my knees and sobbed and sobbed.

I should have been giving the children breakfast before they went to school, and I could hear Kiffer calling in the distance, but I just couldn't move. At that moment I was consumed with my own despair, and stayed there until I had cried myself out.

I waited until I had heard the school bus go down the road, then slowly dragged my weary way back and went straight to the bathroom to wash my face. It was red and swollen. Jackie was still asleep in bed.

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When Jackie was in good form, these were halcyon days.

The moment I stopped the car, the children would tumble out and run like wild colts, hotly pursued by Jackie and me. They screamed with delight as Jackie pounded along behind them.

When Jackie was in good form, these were halcyon days.

But, at the same time, I was watching my sister go through hell. She was tormented, frightened and very muddled.

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The day John Major almost quit

Black Wednesday left John Major shaken, reviled and ready to resign, says Anthony Seldon in the fourth extract from his book

The most difficult day — September 16, 1992 — in John Major's political life began ordinarily enough, with Downing Street basking in a day more summery than autumnal. At his pre-7am meeting he was told of overnight activities, when foreign exchange officials had been monitoring the grim picture of a wave of selling of sterling in foreign exchange markets — New York, Tokyo — gathering momentum as it moved towards London. The question that morning was, should interest rates be put up then, or might further intervention just work? The Bank of England, however, spent millions of pounds before the opening of the London market, to no effect.

Just before 9am Major and Norman Lamont spoke on the telephone. As the intervention had failed, Lamont said that an interest-rate hike was the only alternative. That was what Major had dreaded: any interest-rate rise would play straight into the hands of Eurosceptics as evidence of why Britain should not become any more closely involved in Europe. Major was anxious to involve his three most weighty Cabinet ministers — Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke — in the evolving decisions, not least — as was his style — so that they felt bound to any outcome. It so happened that all were at Admiralty

House that morning to discuss contingency plans after the French referendum result. Major was called out of the meeting at 10.30am to talk to Lamont, and returned to say he had agreed to a 2 per cent interest-rate increase to stem the run on the pound. After the meeting broke up, Major told Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Pierre Bérégovoy, the French Prime Minister, that, despite the interest-rate rises, Britain intended to stay within the exchange-rate mechanism if at all possible. The rise took effect at 11am, but sterling did not respond immediately. Lamont was glued to the money market screens and realised within seconds that the battle was lost. Major did his best to maintain a semblance of normality. At midday, he kept an appointment with a group of backbenchers. With Treasury officials waiting at the door, Major extended the meeting to 25 minutes rather than ushering out the backbenchers at the end of their allotted ten minutes.

Heseltine, Hurd and Clarke — understandably distracted by the morning's events — returned to their departments, where they anxiously watched events unfold on television. At 12.30pm, all three were recalled to Admiralty House, where they met Major and Lamont in the dining room, lined with portraits of former naval heroes, now used as a temporary command centre. The news was not good. A wave of gloom had swept across British business and homeowners that morning, as they faced interest rates they could not afford. Billions were wiped off share prices as the stock market shed another 30 points. "We are losing tens of

millions of pounds for every few minutes that we go on talking," the Chancellor burst out. Speculators, sensing the kill, were locked into selling sterling in the knowledge that they could, after the inevitable devaluation, buy it back more cheaply, thereby making billions of pounds of profit at the Government's expense.

At 12.45pm, the ministerial group was joined by Treasury and Bank officials. Major, chairing of the meeting was described as slightly rattled, but authoritative. As the morning interest-rate rise had failed, the options now were fourfold: to increase interest rates to 15 per cent, to let the

Treasury, and suspend ERM membership now, or follow his most senior Cabinet ministers and give it one last heave. He chose the latter. The meeting broke up at 2pm, and at 2.15pm the Bank announced rates would rise to 15 per cent — reversing all the hard-fought cuts since October 1990.

Speculation in Whitehall had been rising all day. Many Cabinet ministers knew little of what was going on. John Wakeham, Leader of the Lords, was due to go to Charterhouse school to watch his son play football, but spoke to Robin Butler before leaving, saying he thought it odd that he had not been involved.

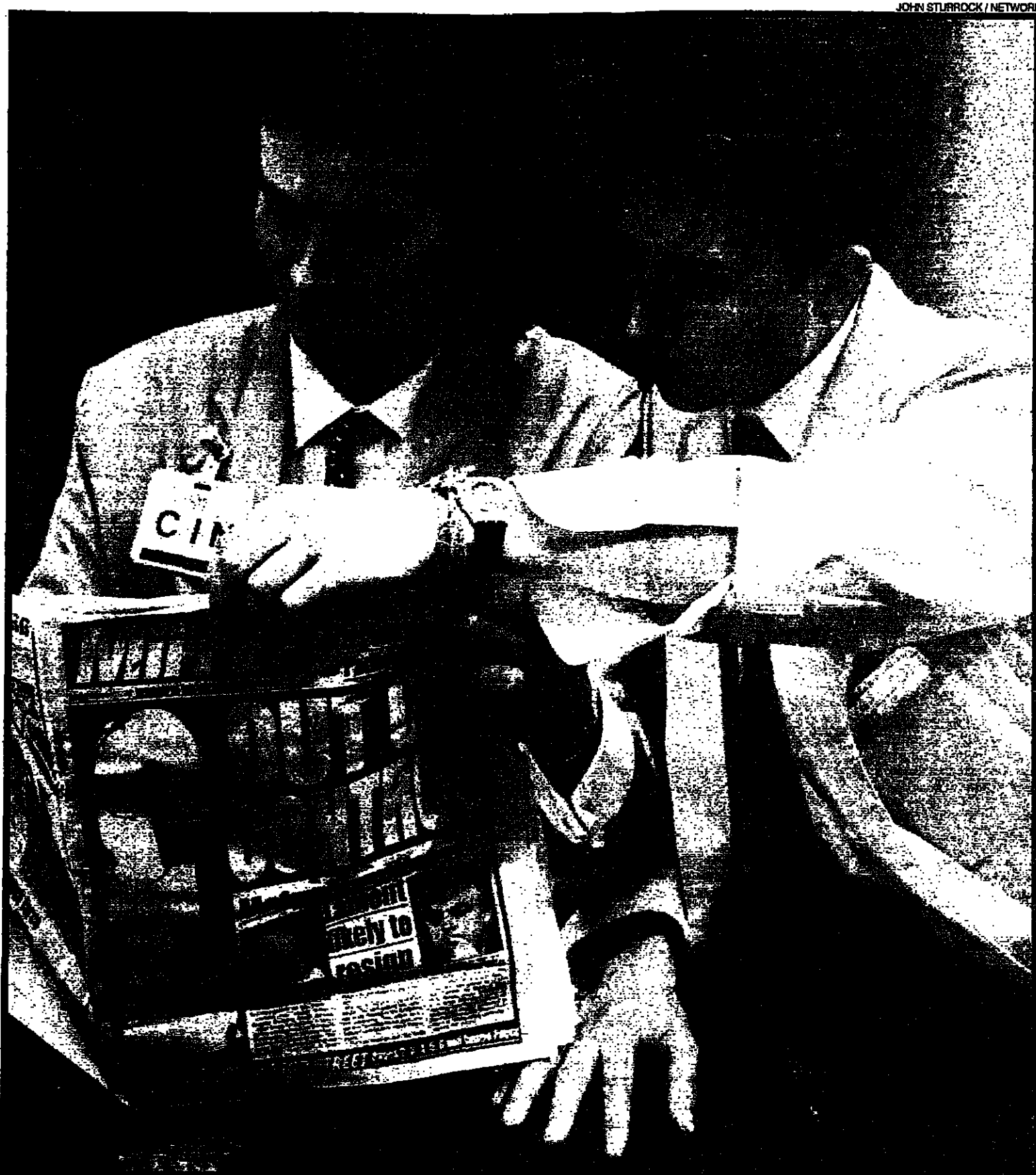
Butler replied that he had found out what was going on only when he happened to pass by No 10. Butler joined the group when it met before 4pm in Admiralty House, waiting for the Governor and Chancellor to return from the City to report on the effects of the second interest-rate rise.

The three heavy-weight ministers were tetchy at not being better informed. Butler joked in the waiting room that here were some of the most influential people in the country during a decisive moment in its history, sitting around with no access to any market information; no one had thought to install Reuters monitors on a computer network in the Prime Minister's quarters in Admiralty House.

When the Chancellor and Governor returned, Lamont first had a private meeting with Major, and then the large meeting was reconvened. The day had so obviously been lost; talk revolved around how best to handle and present the news. Lamont, it was agreed, should announce the reversal of the rise to 15 per cent back to 12 per cent. Heseltine and Clarke pressed for a return to 10 per cent, but the Treasury and Bank agreed that such a move was precipitous and might put the pound at risk. Norman Fowler was sent to do the rounds of the television studios, presenting the news as favourably as he could. Perhaps over-cautiously, Fowler was deputed to speak because, as party chairman, he was not a government minister and so would not be speaking prejudicially before the meeting of the EMS Monetary Committee in Brussels that night. But Lamont, too, conducted several of the early media interviews before returning to the Treasury and debating, over takeaway pizza, what should be done about interest rates and which line to take at the Brussels meeting.

Soon there were stories on the grapevine that Major had cracked, lost his nerve, or "wobbled" on the day. There is no truth in any of these rumours. Some suspected Lamont's supporters put the rumours about, an accusation he denies. Major had periods of irritation, particularly against the Bundesbank. He complained that the Bank of England, especially Eddie George, had not done enough earlier to remedy the position. But, throughout the key meetings and in all the decisions, he was almost inhumanly calm and self-possessed. Although obviously under great pressure, he elicited opinions from everyone, asked the questions, listed pros and cons, and took the final decisions.

That night, Major was the first of his team to take on board fully what a devastating blow it would prove to the Government, and his own position, as well as to party

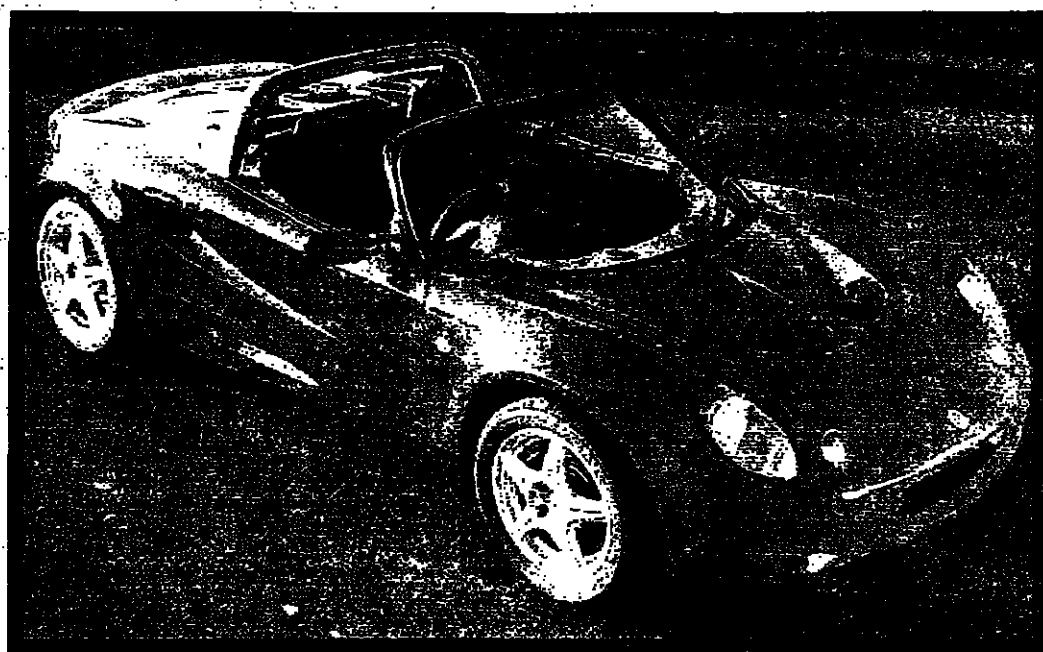


Bad day for most of the nation, good day for some in the City: it was estimated that speculators made £10 billion on Black Wednesday

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES

DRIVING PASSIONS: FOUR FABULOUS CARS TO BE WON



To coincide with the launch of our supplement *Driving Passions*, free with yesterday's newspaper, *The Times* has teamed up with *The Sunday Times* and Churchill Insurance, to offer readers the chance to win one of four exciting cars, each worth around £20,000.

Harvey Postlethwaite, designer of Formula One cars for Tyrrell and Ferrari, says of the Lotus Elise, above, "It puts the grin on your face from the first moment you drive it". The Elise is one of the most exciting cars to have come out of Britain in years and has scored more plaudits from more pundits than almost any sports car, writes Kevin Eason, *Times* motoring correspondent.

HOW TO ENTER

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No purchase necessary. You can obtain up to three bonus tokens, one request per household, and an entry form by sending a stamped, s.c., before November 1, to: *The Times/Churchill's Token Request*, PO Box 9077, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GD.

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TOMORROW

The tensions at the top: the rivalries in the Major Cabinet that led to revolt

Hogarth was capable of far more than satire, as two new shows demonstrate. Richard Cork reports

All life and lust is here

With his flair for controversy and mass-reproduction selling, William Hogarth ensured himself a fame granted to few other British artists. His very name has entered our language, as an adjective used to describe rumbustious scenes of tipsiness, lechery and corruption. But if we have a ready-made image of what Hogarthian means, do we really know Hogarth and his teeming, multi-faceted work?

The question is raised at the British Museum and the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester, where two major surveys of his graphic images have been organised to mark the 300th anniversary of Hogarth's birth. Drawing on the Whitworth's own superb collection, more than 100 Hogarth prints are displayed there in a survey of his central involvement with the city. The British Museum's exhibition, thoughtfully selected by David Bindman and subtitled *Serious Comedy*, underlines the immense energy and ambition of a man associated too readily with boisterous satire alone.

Relishing his enviable freedom of movement, during a period when the London art world had few schools and no Royal Academy, this tireless, self-made individualist defiantly explored a bewildering array of possibilities. Low-life images were produced at the same time as genteel portrait groups and soap-opera moralities. Erotic scenes coexist in his output with a grandiose, sombre painting at Lincoln's Inn extolling the virtues of justice. Hogarth was astonishingly versatile, uneven in achievement and impossible to pin down. The only important subject he avoided was landscape — a sensible decision for an incurable Londoner whose best pictures, as Hazlitt pointed out, often "breathe a certain close, gray, tavern air".

These words apply supremely to *A Midnight Conversation*, the most popular of Hogarth's prints. He claimed that it had moralising intentions, and the well-dressed revellers tottering round the punchbowl are all periously near total collapse. One, scarcely able to support himself with a high-backed chair, pours wine onto the bald head of a drinker sprawling across the floor. Another, slumped in the corner next to a retching companion, struggles to light an upside-down pipe. But he holds the candlestick so feebly that it threatens to set him ablaze. Although Hogarth's inscription claims that he intends to "lash the Vices", the print seems knockabout rather than mer-

ciess. Inevitable boozers regarded it with special affection, and Bindman displays an 18th-century tankard proudly decorated with a glazed relief copied from *A Midnight Modern Conversation*.

Hogarth himself was no stranger to the delights of drinking. One of the sprightliest exhibits at the British Museum is a swift ink-and-wash drawing from a volume called *The Five Days Persecution*. It shows Hogarth and four friends breakfasting at the Nag's Head during a rowdy tour of the Kent coast. Singing, playing hopscotch and hurling soft cow-dung at each other in mock fights, they consumed heroic meals and prodigious quantities of beer. Hogarth capped the boyish naughtiness by defecating on a churchyard grave at Hoo. In her excellent new biography of the artist (Faber, £25), Jenny Uglow comments that Hogarth's wit "often had such crude bravado, a metaphorical determination to clap where he could".

Apart from making a print of a slumbering congregation stunned by the tedium of a church service, Hogarth rarely attacked the clergy. He reserved much of his venom for physicians. In 1737 he produced a graphic masterpiece called *The Company of Undertakers*, advertised as "Quacks in Conversation". The more sensational members of the medical profession are arraigned in this gaggle of pompous faces crowned by fetishistic periwigs. Gathered above skeletal emblems of death, the conspiratorial grotesques are surmounted by a trio of notorious charlatans. Mrs Mapp, the cross-eyed bone-setter, is sandwiched between John Taylor the oculist, described by Dr Johnson as "an instance of how far imprudence would carry ignorance", and a pill-pusher called Joshua "Spur" Ward, whom Hogarth had already pilloried in the death scene of *The Harlot's Progress*.

It is scorn for such dangerous impostors knew no bounds, and yet his condemnation was securely founded in precise observation. One contemporary writer insisted that "the physicians in Hogarth's prints are not caricatures. The full dress with the sword and great tie-wig, and the hat under the arm, and the doctors in consultation, each smiling to a gold-headed cane... are pictures of real life in his time."

The moods encompassed in Hogarth's work span a far wider range than is often acknowledged. At one extreme, his most savage print can be found at the end of *The Four Stages of Cruelty*. He set the scene in an operating theatre, where the corpse of the sadistic Tom Nero receives its gruesome come-uppance. Presided over by the callous indifference of physicians observing the proceedings, Nero is subjected to the most humiliating dissection imaginable. While a young assistant makes incisions in his feet, and another butcher-like figure gouges his eye-socket, the haggard senior surgeon carves into his bowels, pulling out intestines. A dog is permitted to gnaw at his discarded remains. Hogarth saw this degradation as a suitable fate



Far removed from the intoxicated hell he depicted in *Gin Lane*, Hogarth's *Beer Street* (1751) offers a vision of prosperous contentment

for a man who had himself been guilty of terrible crimes against animals, and he came to believe that publication of *The Four Stages of Cruelty* had "checked the diabolical spirit of barbarity, which, I am sorry to say, was once so prevalent in this country".

But he was also able to express a surprising amount of tenderness. When the retired sea-captain Thomas Coram established the Foundling Hospital, Hogarth backed the enterprise with limitless, unpaid enthusiasm. For the Court Room in the new building, he depicted the moment when Moses, "the first foundling", was given by his mother to Pharaoh's daughter. In Hogarth's engraved version of the painting, he shows far greater anguish on the mother's face. Although Pharaoh's daughter appears confident of her ability to reassure the child, and holds out a welcoming hand, he is afraid to leave the maternal robes. His expression reveals all the desperation of a small boy reluctant to leave the woman he loves.

In the end, though, Hogarth is at his most trenchant when dealing with modern urban life. Images of humanity brawling, cheating and carousing in city thoroughfares dominate both shows, in London and Manchester alike. Although Hogarth hoped that the contrasting prints of *Beer Street* and *Gin Lane* would "reform some reigning Vices peculiar to the lower Class of People", they did not have the effect he intended. For *Beer Street's* vision of prosperous contentment has always been overlooked, in favour of the apocalyptic energy animating *Gin Lane's* intoxicated hell.

● Hogarth and his Times at the British Museum (0171-436 1555) until Jan 4; Hogarth: The Artist and the City at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (0161-275 7450) until Nov 16

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AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE extensive exhibition Craft aims to undermine the distinction between art and craft and show how those who make art employ a great deal of craft and vice versa. Unfortunately, the affordable scale of most of the objects gives it an air of an upmarket bring-and-buy sale. The work is most successful when the suggested gap between disciplines seems slight: the raggy, craggy work of Ben Hall, with his denim rag rugs, for instance, or Joyce Scott's wire and glass bead voodoo dolls, or Alga Muller's plaster cushion studded with ceramic fragments.

Cecile Johnson-Soliz makes fabulous pots, fundamental expressions in themselves, but displays them on too oppressive and high a plinth. Gergal Stapleton and Rebecca Warren's glass rocket, in a display case with the back of a circular sticky label representing the Moon, is displayed as quite a grand collaborative statement. Richard Salmon, *Edwardes Square Studios*, 59 South Edwardes Square, London W8 (0171-602 9494), to Nov 8

□ EVIDENCE of a painstaking project recording the span and range of an archaeological dig along a part of the Ridgeway is currently on view at both the University and Pitt Rivers Museums, Oxford. The excavated ground has been photographed, inch by inch, by painter Simon Calley and photographer Andrew Watson. The University Museum has installed seven specially built 27-drawer deep-plan chests. It is possible to pull open any of the drawers to view a section of the excavated information. Along the road at the annex of the Pitt Rivers Museum it is possible to see the photographs arranged all together to gain an overview. However, in this case knowing that something exists may be enough, without having to see it. The Segsbury Project, Oxford University Museum, Parks Road, Oxford and Pitt Rivers Museum, Balfour Building, 60 Banbury Road until Oct 31

□ A SLEEPING child: the upper part of a woman's body, legs and a lower torso, modelled perfectly out of wax, lie across the floor, lean against the wall or hang from the ceiling. The "realistic" human form, which has returned with a vengeance over the past decade, is probably the easiest way to combine classical form with contemporary expression. The most successful pieces in *Pia Stadthammer's* first London show, however, seem to be those that carry her point to conclusion. Two larger-than-life figures, modelled or cast in less soft material, lie heavy on the floor, with heads propped against the wall to set up a strange relation between their apparent likeness, scale and surface. These figures carry more plausible gravity and weight than the wax figures, which provide just too obvious a strange image. *Delfina*, 50 Bernandsey Street, London SE1 (0171-357 6600), until Nov 23

SACHA CRADDOCK

Wonderful sets, but at a price

Sampling opera in Europe is a curious experience nowadays. Attending new stagings of *Das Rheingold* in Amsterdam and *Turandot* in Paris brought severe culture shock, since there was little to distract musically on either evening. I spent most of both wondering what on earth they could have cost. Spectacle has been a part of opera since it started, and British audiences are being starved of it. Operatically, we

are the Poor Man of Europe. I would guess that the Dutch *Rheingold*, the first instalment of Pierre Audi's new *Ring*, cost considerably more than the whole Jones-Lowery cycle at Covent Garden. George Tsypkin's set is based on three full-size false stages, which fly about. A walkway is built round the pit into the stalls area. There were two vertiginously suspended balconies on stage for adventurous members of the audi-

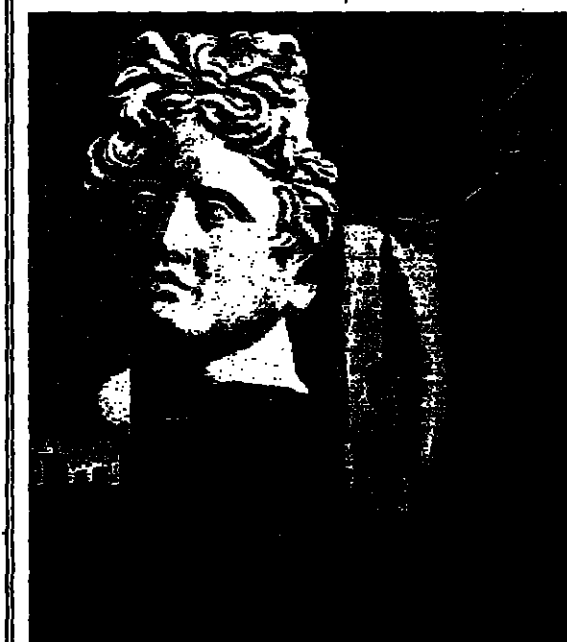
ence. There are four bare lightbulbs. It is all wonderfully lit, and looks the million dollars it doubtless cost. What it all did for *Das Rheingold* is another matter. The singers were dwarfed by their surroundings, and at the level of narrative the performance was, to put it mildly, vague. The more experienced soloists — Chris Merritt (Loge), Graham Clark (Mime), Anne Gjevang (Erda) — did best. John Brucheler's tentative Wotan left a large hole at the centre of the action. But what scuppered the evening was the dull conducting of Hartmut Haenchen and the very ordinary playing by the Hague Residentie Orchestra. I would rather a bare stage and Bernard Haitink.

Indeed, both evenings demonstrated both powerfully and negatively that conductors are ultimately responsible for the success or otherwise of an opera performance. There was nothing a fine cast or sparky direction could do with Georges Pretre's disastrously lethargic account of *Turandot* in Paris. Sergey Larin, the excellent Calaf, had to breathe the last word of *Nessun dorma*; Sharon Sweet, on better form as the Ice Princess than at Covent Garden, had to pause for breath even more often; only Barbara Fritoli (Liù) had the breath control to see her through without mishap.

Francesca Zambello's production is huge fun. The Emperor is kept in a cage and Turandot has taken over, sustained in power by two dozen fierce Amazonian guards. The executioner is female. The only men in the palace are eunuchs, squealing and tittering in an unacceptably sumptuous fashion, and the three Masks who, in interesting leather gear, are plainly not the marrying kind. The second act opens in the palace kitchen, where hundreds of princely heads are stored in a wire-front cupboard. The three riddles are posed over Lou-Ling's tomb. This is the gender war writ large.

It works fine until the last scene, which can only be seen as an Unhappy End. Zambello goes into another production, and Alison Chitty's down-constructivist set suddenly goes bright orange. So do the Amazons. Never can the argument for ending the piece where Puccini broke off, with the death of Liù, have been more strongly made. After all, even without this gender-war gloss, the action of *Turandot* is still waiting to be resolved.

RODNEY MILNES



TEN OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Dream ticket

Richard Cork's daily guide to the Hayward Gallery's still lifes

■ **GIORGIO DE CHIRICO: The Song of Love, c.1914**
ALL the objects seem frozen in this deserted, heavily shadowed piazza. Even the puff of white smoke above the distant train looks arrested in space. Reduced to a black silhouette, the train appears incapable of motion. As for the shining glove hung so incongruously next to the classical carving, its limpness is unruffled by a breeze. The juxtaposition of modern glove and ancient head is startling, and suggests that de Chirico is haunted by his country's inescapable past. But no rational explanation can be found for this teasingly enigmatic painting. It is as mysterious as the green ball poised in the foreground, like a stage prop left over from the dramatisation of an indecipherable dream.

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO 5
Reviewed by Richard Osborne

WHEN Trevor Harvey discussed Beethoven's Fifth in the first ever *Building a Library* 40 years ago last Saturday, there were fewer than a dozen recordings available. Now there are getting on for a hundred. And yet the conductors who dominated the 1957 survey — Toscanini, Furtwängler, Bruno Walter, Erich Kleiber, Otto Klemperer — still dominate the interpretative high ground.

The winner in 1957 was Klemperer's 1955 mono recording with the Philharmonia Orchestra (EMI CDM 63868-2). No one conducts the last two movements better than Klemperer, but his account of the first movement now seems a touch sedate. A great performance of the Fifth will generate huge tensions but will have nobility, too. Ponderousness won't do in the first movement, nor will headless precipitation. Almost alone, Toscanini could drive the music fiercely forward while at the same time achieving a fully articulated orchestral sound. His 1939 NBC recording (RCA GD 60270) is particularly fine.

Toscanini was a follower of the new functionalism in Beethoven interpretation that took root in Germany in the 1920s. That movement's modern counterpart is period authenticity. None of these performances would be my first choice, though both Norrington and Eliot Gardiner catch powerfully the explosive sonorities of Beethoven's revolutionary orchestration. Harmoncourt's performance is marred by bizarre retouchings of dynamics and balance. At the heart of the old German tradition of Beethoven interpretation was great textural clarity, serving the music's contrapuntal element, and a richly developed sound serving the harmonic element. No one demonstrated this better than Furtwängler and the Berlin Philharmonic, but Carlos Kleiber does so too in his celebrated 1974 Vienna Philharmonic recording (DG 447 400-2, £9.99). Kleiber is profoundly attuned to the great performing traditions of the past. Equally, I would not want to be without Furtwängler's 1937 Berlin studio recording (Biddulph WHL 0067). After 1945 his reading changed, but in the heyday of his art, he understood the symphony more completely than anyone.



● To order the recommended recording with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Schubert's String Quartet, Death and the Maiden

HOGARTH

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Beware of short-term bankers

The Barclays sale of BZW should worry us, says Anatole Kaletsky

Last Friday Martin Taylor, the highly regarded chief executive of Barclays Bank who is also an influential business adviser to Tony Blair, announced that he was breaking up Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the biggest City investment bank remaining in British ownership.

This is a far more important event in Britain's financial history than the collapse of Barings or the sale of SG Warburg to Swiss Bank Corporation last year. BZW was the last publicly owned investment bank still in British hands. And Barclays, with BZW under its wing, was the last British bank that seemed big enough to have any chance of competing with the great investment houses of Wall Street, or the German, Swiss and Dutch universal banks.

Two years ago I wrote a scathing article on this page about *The State We're In*, the bestselling book on Britain's economy and constitution written by my old friend Will Hutton. I attacked Hutton's book largely because it seemed clear to me back in 1995 that Britain was on the threshold of a long period of prosperity and employment. Hutton (and the millions of people convinced by his passionate argument) believed the exact opposite — that Britain was doomed to mass unemployment because its economy was crippled by low investment, a ruthless pursuit of short-term shareholder profits and a total indifference to the interests of other "stakeholders", such as workers, consumers and generations yet unborn.

What do the two paragraphs above have in common? For me, quite a lot. One of things that prompted my attack on Hutton's book was an article in which he criticised Hutton's pessimistic view of Britain's macroeconomic prospects. Taylor skilfully took apart Hutton's argument that financial "short-termism" was at the root of all Britain's economic problems. It was an argument that influenced millions of readers, including Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Reflecting on the events at Barclays, I now wonder whether Hutton might, after all, have been right.

I do not challenge Mr Taylor's financial logic in breaking up BZW. Neither do I accept for a moment that Hutton will be vindicated in his apocalyptic predictions of continuous mass unemployment and economic crisis (unless the management of British monetary policy is transferred to Frankfurt).

What worries me about developments at Barclays is that a large British company has again proved incapable of managing the very type of business in which individual Britons have proved uniquely successful and upon which long-term prosperity depends.

The financial services sector already employs as many people in Britain as all manufacturing businesses put to-

gether and salaries are much higher than the national average, as well as more rapidly growing. As the European economy becomes more integrated, finance will play an even bigger role as we specialise in the fields where we enjoy a comparative advantage.

Yet, despite the abilities of British financiers, as manifested by their astronomical earnings and the ceaseless flow of international capital into London, British managers have proved unable to run these businesses as successfully as foreign firms.

One has to think only of the debacles at Lloyd's and Barings, the sales of Morgan Grenfell, Kleinwort Benson and Warburgs, the retreat of Britain's general insurance companies in the face of German, Swiss and French competition, and the failure of British clearing banks to establish themselves in America or Europe.

This is where Hutton's argument about short-termism comes in. Taylor gave three main reasons last week for pulling out of investment banking. First, the business was making a return on capital of only about 8 per cent, which was far lower than the 34 per cent Barclays made in retail banking. Secondly, the costs of investment banking were rising at a staggering rate — many salaries increased last year by 30 or 40 per cent.

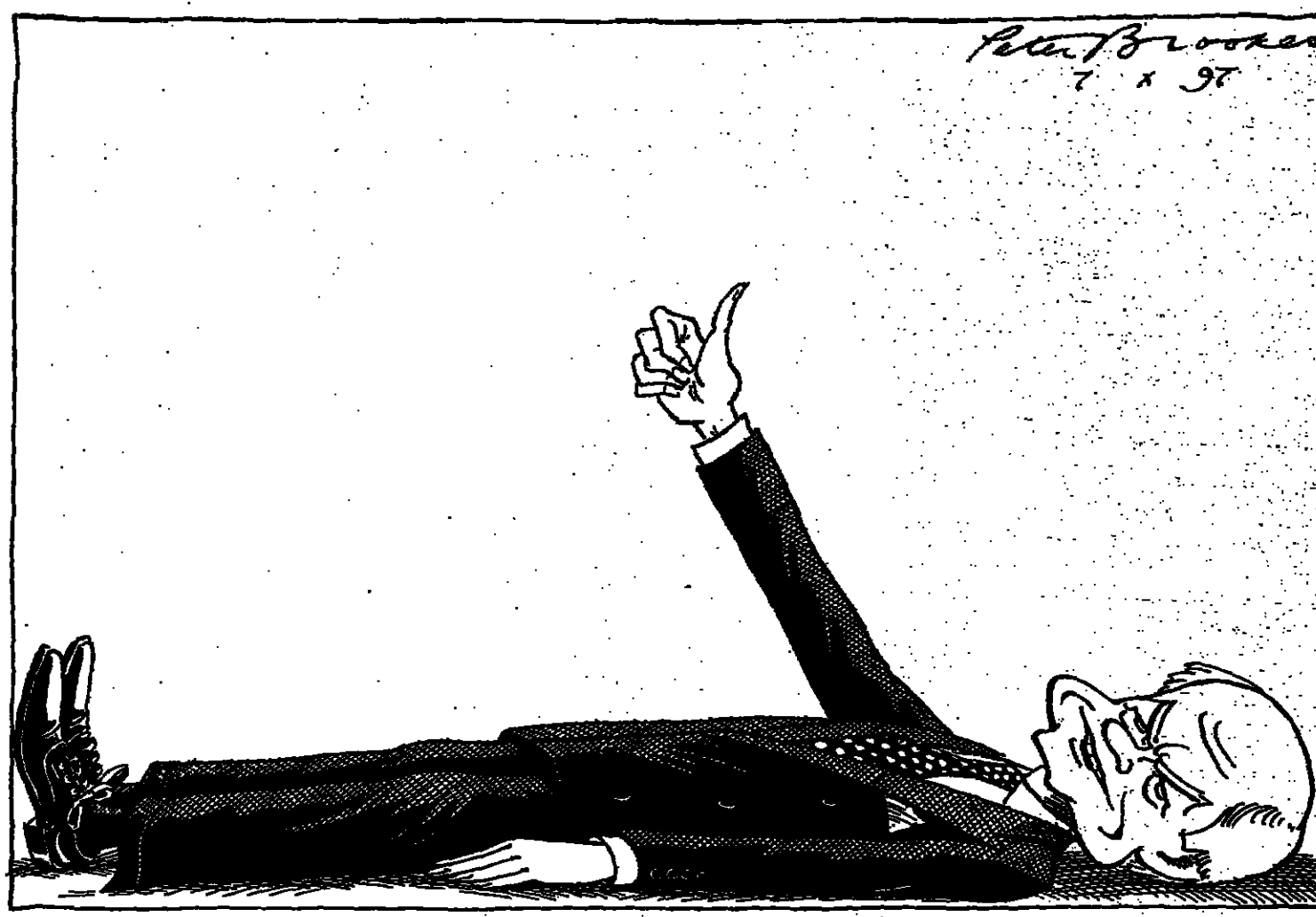
Finally, Barclays decided that major new investment would be required to push BZW into the front rank of global investment banks and keep it there.

If investment bankers can secure ridiculously high salaries in a competitive job market, does this not itself indicate the short-termism which has become endemic in the City? Bankers demand exorbitant pay because they know they can be fired at any moment. Many would be happy to accept lower pay in exchange for better working conditions and more secure employment — and this was, in fact, how British banks used to be able to keep their costs down in relation to American rivals.

In the City today, however, bankers will not accept promises of security in exchange for lower pay, since they know that the promises may not be honoured. As Hutton argues in his new book *The State We're In*, one of the biggest costs of running an economy solely for short-term profits is a breakdown in the "ethic of trust".

Finally, what of the conflict between long-term strategies and short-term shareholder profits? Profitable British companies have, over the years, lost positions of global dominance in industries from power engineering and electronics to insurance, while less profitable European and Japanese companies have gained market share. If British banking goes the way of British power engineering, we will all feel the pinch.

The British are fine financiers but poor managers



"WE'RE OFF OUR KNEES AND BACK IN BUSINESS..."
WILLIAM HAGUE

Not the whole Diana

We all stray on the way to maturity — so why fossilise the Princess's worst year?

What do I think about the Diana tapes affair? The same as you, probably: tasteless, untimely, callous, treacherous. Even the most strenuous attempts at empathy fail to solve the riddle of how Mr Andrew Morton can bear to wake up every morning in the same bed as himself.

This newspaper's own status as the first bringer of the bad news — that the confidence was broken and the damn book coming out — made a few of us gasp last week. But a book is a solid object, a fact is a fact, and somebody had to be first to announce it. It is even — just — possible to make a case for Morton's deciding to reveal to history the full extent of her co-operation. What turns the stomach is that in 1997 he should publish verbatim transcripts of tapes sent out, in trustful desperation, from Kensington Palace in 1991. Now that the dam has broken, scraps of that despair are quoted everywhere.

Don't worry, not here. All I want, after a week of queasiness, is to pin down just why it feels not only cruel to the living but unfair to the dead. It was summed up by one of her charity colleagues: "Look, all that bad stuff was over. She'd grown up. This man is trying to fossilise the very worst year of her life." Credible friends of the Princess all say that in the past few years she had moved away from anger, fear and obsession, and even seemed to be enjoying life. This kind of progress is not unfamiliar to those who have suffered divorce.

Rosa Monckton, a long-standing friend, says that Diana regretted her *Panorama* broadcast, which was the final expression of the emotions fuelling Morton's book. There was a genuine change going on: she had consolidated the best part of her work, stepped down her anxious manipulation of media and the rumour machine, broken with cronies of her most frenzied period, formed new affections and even symbolically sold the clothes in which her glitziest and grimmest years were spent.

She had moved on. The tearful, lonely, trapped woman who briefly and crazily used Morton was no more. She refused to have anything to do with his second book (in return for which withdrawal Mr Morton, it should be recorded, has written jeeringly about her since — a fortnight before her death calling her "a

fruit" who talked less sense than her husband's vegetables, and predicting that Dodi Fayed would soon "swap her for a pack of 20 Camels"). Since he is in favour of repeating people's old indiscretions, it seems right to mention that. But for anybody to package up and sell her words of long ago, words she regretted, is a distortion of memory. No author has a right to parley their one small bit of knowledge into a grotesque caricature.

Everybody moves on. From St Augustine to Silas Marner, from Ebenezer Scrooge to Shirley Temple, half the story of human beings is a tale of habits discarded, minds changed, vices tamed and lives reformed. As surely as some people start out good and get corrupted, so can others go through bad phases and be redeemed.

Unfortunately, you only have to run an eye along any shelf of videos or novels to notice that corruption and decline is more fashionable than improvement and redemption. I think it is Greer Garson who said, apropos the film industry of her time, that art was a tilting mirror to life; you can either angle it slightly upward to reflect more of the higher virtues of humanity, or slightly downward to reflect the worst. She favoured, perhaps, an exaggerated upward tilt: it is easy to make fun of all those plucky little women and lazzarini-jawed heroes and noble re-nunciations. On the other hand, these days both fictional and factual media prefer to give the mirror a good cloud until it points crazily downward to reflect as much sulphur, brimstone and stink as possible.

Something demonic in us balks at the ordinary, the orderly and kindly and mature, and hungers for drama, violence, rage, meanness and silliness. We praise ourselves for facing "reality", while whole swaths of reality about people and their deeds go unrecorded. To quote the poet John Whitworth:

Libby Purves

The Crocodile has vicious habits But I would rather watch him in the zoo than the rabbits Oh yes, the wicked are better than the meek any day As long as they are behind bars, or dead or far away.

And if the wicked are more fun than the meek, and pratfalls better entertainment than steady endeavour, it follows that most people's youth is going to be more amusing to onlookers than their maturity. The injustice of fixing Diana for ever in 1991 can be most easily appreciated by anybody in middle age who dares to look back at the rambling, obsessive self-indulgent poems and letters she wrote in the grip of thwarted first love. Just because Diana did not reach middle age is no reason to deny her the progress she had made; all the more reason to be kind, and assume that her full maturity would have been even better.

But we love to fossilise people. The extreme is Myra Hindley, fixed for ever in one sinister police photograph now aggravated by the ghoulies conceits of modern art. But at least she committed a crime: for most victims of popular fossilisation, their only crime is simply to have been, once upon a time, younger.

The list is endless: apart from all the actors cringing at their early films, and the grave and reverend signifiers on pages such as this who may be ambushed at any time by something embarrassing they wrote in the school magazine, think of people like Clare Francis: fifteen years a blockbusting popular novelist in couture jacks, yet she is still typecast as a sea-dog in oilskins. The Speaker of the House of Commons must often wish she had never been a Tiller Girl.

John Profumo worked altruistically for decades to wipe out the main association of his name, but never quite did. Shirley Temple Black managed ambassadorial credibility

but still tows the Good Ship Lollipop stern of her like a dead weight. Unauthorised biographers lie in wait for even the most masterful: one of them left Germaine Greer helplessly frothing with rage only last week.

Some actors manage to eclipse their old images. Bimbo startsles hide in chilly, ladylike Merchant-Ivory costumes; Joanna "sophisticated" Lumley went the opposite way to become the comic figure of Patsy Stone. But some never get rid of a role. Once a Python, forever a Python: and it is all very well for Andrew Sachs to be a serious actor but it won't stop people going *Qué* at him in public places.

Politicians try to bury their earlier persona as red-hot rebels by swathing themselves in layers of pinstripe suits and gravitas, but still fall foul of old comrades' memories of the days when they definitely did inhale. One of the worst temptations of being a journalist in your forties is that the irresponsible idiots of your youth keep turning up in the Cabinet, running national newspapers and enormous industries and generally posing as moral guides to the nation. It is very hard to take them seriously, any more than it was easy to contemplate the Pope's weaving a sermon around Bob Dylan's lyrics. But then, there are probably schoolfriends of the Pope who still struggle to take him seriously.

But we must accept the burning kaleidoscope of change and growth, we really must. The present is as valid as the past and no human life should be defined by its lowest ebb. To do so is unkind and inaccurate. It is also, oddly, rather boring. We know all the sad, furious Diana stuff already. One of these years, when somebody writes a proper biography, it will sparkle because it will be complete. A real life, a whole life, taken for all in all. Staring at one flat facet of that life is a poor, dull memorial. In the week she died a friend gave me a copy of a stunningly obscure poem by the Edwardian, Victor Plarr, *Epitaphium Citharistiae*. It was the last lines which struck her:

Oh, for it would be a pity To o'erpraise her or to flout her; She was wild, and sweet, and witty Let's not say dull things about her.

A dance to the tune of Yoof?

Michael Gove has advice for Tories who feel their age

At different points in the Conservative Party's decline, its soul has been bared more effectively by the television dramatist than by any journalist. Margaret Thatcher's fall coincided with the BBC adaptation of Michael Dobbs's *House of Cards*, and the former Saatchi executive's story of a Tory leadership contest captured the malice, ambition and treachery of Conservative politicians with a pitiless accuracy. The coincidence was entirely accidental. The poetic appropriateness of the juxtaposition would, however, have delighted another, far greater, writer. Anthony Powell's novel sequence *A Dance to the Music of Time* has taken more than 25 years to make it to the small screen. It describes upper-class England from the 1930s to the 1970s. But, in its precise, delicious anatomy of snobbery, decadence and the corrupting capacity of the will to power, it is a darkly perfect complement to the Conservative Party conference.

Powell's novel sequence has its innocents and idealists, and gives off the gamey whiff of a pleasure-soaked past. The most lasting impression is, however, of its anti-hero Kenneth Widmerpool: his spirit can be detected stalking the Winter Gardens this week. Widmerpool is a compelling grotesque. Deceptively easy to ridicule, he is sustained by driving ambition and an ear permanently cocked for the rumble of the passing bad weather. His lust for power and willingness to follow fashion, however clumsily, takes him from Eton into the heart of the Atlee Government and makes him an adornment of the Establishment, before his modishness ultimately destroys him.

A politician without ambition is like a gigolo without charm: whatever his other gifts, he will never make the most of himself. A dispirited party with a great deal to do before power returns would benefit from more of Widmerpool's drive and capacity to absorb reverses. There is a passivity among many Conservatives here in Blackpool, a faith in Fate rather than the Will, which can only make recovery more difficult.

But if the burning ambition exhibited by too few Conservatives here should be more widely shared, the modishness indulged in by others should be shunned. The most egregious example of a Tory surrender to fashion comes in a new pamphlet from the Centre for Policy Studies, *Blue Skies Ahead — Reclaiming the Missing Generation* is the work of four youthful Conservatives, criticised by the Tories' inability to be more trendy. The authors, three communications consultants and the marketing director of the "Ministry of Sound" nightclub empire, blame the parlous state of the party on a failure in "branding". They trace the Tory decline to John Major's rhetorical invocation of the 1950s, a decade they dismiss as "not thought groovy". After the greatest Conservative electoral humiliation since 1832, they reflect on the party's greatest mistake — "the Conservatives have actively promoted themselves as a party of warm beer and cricket in an age when today's icons favour Diet Coke and Rollerblading".

Disraeli once suggested, tongue as ever in cheek, that Gladstone was borne out of office on a tidal wave of beer. Now poor old John Major is apparently thrown out of office because his taste in drink was naïf. The Tories are held to have forfeited the respect of the youth, the nation's natural arbiters of acceptability, by playing Dixie music at rallies and embracing a policy on Europe inimical to "international idealists".

One does not need to be a nonagenarian Old Etonian like Anthony Powell to find this clumsy genuflection to Yoof hideously politically misjudged. As a thirty-something Young Aberdonian, I found the pamphlet's lumbering attempts to chide the Tories out embarrassing and — if taken as seriously as other CPS pamphlets deserve to be — potentially harmful to the Tory cause.

Putting aside the authors' failure to recognise that their pro-Europeanism is as dated as Dixie music, any attempt to impress the young by spicing their manners will only bring deserved derision. In their anxiety to put past failures behind them, the Shadow Cabinet should not try to become the oldest swingers in town. The Tories' problems in the past have been due far more to a superficial conversion to modish metropolitan fashions, whether for the monetary discipline of the ERM or the management gobbledygook of the Citizen's Charter, than an adherence to durable principle. Past attempts to paint leaders as in tune with Yoof, most notably the attempt in the 1960s to depict Edward Heath as a modern man in his swinging bachelor apartment in Albany, have always offended traditionalists without fooling the fashionable.

In yesterday's *Times* interview, William Hague showed himself sensitive to the folly of following Labour by taking one's lead from focus groups and bending with the wind. Mr Hague, like most young people of his generation, knows that the politicians who win the respect of every generation are those, like Margaret Thatcher, who refuse to dance to the music of time, but stay true to enduring principle.

No show

IN a further blow to William Hague's pride, even his old business friends are eschewing the Tory conference. After my disclosure that Michael Heseltine was steering clear — fearing that he would be "a ghost at the feast" — Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry and an old chum of Wee Willie's from their days in management consultancy, has also pleaded "pressing business".

Initially, Mr Turner, who attended both the Labour and TUC conferences, said he could not come because of unavoidable "long-term" commitments in New

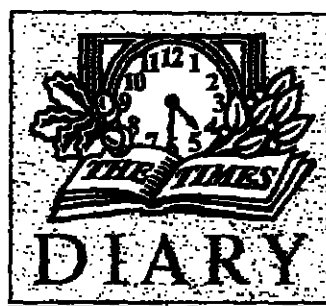
York. Now he has cancelled those plans — not to support his old friend, but to pop over to Brussels to meet Euro-business boys.

"This really should not be interpreted as a snub," ventures the CBI. "It is just a timing thing." But won't this add to Willie's paranoia? "Oh, old friends that they are. I doubt he will feel rejected."

Perhaps, but it strengthens suggestions that the CBI has given up on the Tories. Despite an embarrassing early interlude with the Young Conservatives, Mr Turner is believed to have grown exasperated by the last Government's isolationist stance on Europe. I just hope Mr Hague does not feel too isolated up in Blackpool this week.

Chain reaction

EVIDENCE of the continued influence of Camilla Parker Bowles: the Prince of Wales's first female press attaché, Sandy Henney, is itching to leave her office after a catfight with Ms PB. Relations deteriorated



after the Prince's friend objected to a gold chain hanging around Ms Henney's ankle, and sent a stiff missive telling her it was "inappropriate". The flunkie was unimpressed. "Sandy has always liked her gold ankle chains and was known as the golden girl at the MoD," says a former colleague. "She thought it impertinent."

The daughter of a Smithfield porter, Ms H started as a Scotland Yard clerk, drifting into Court life when she married Bob Marsh, former head of the Royal Protection Squad. Not one to take any nonsense, she is determined to leave — a year after joining.

Breakout

A WILD night out with Ann Widmerpool may seem like a rather macabre prospect, but 100 guests enjoyed a raucous thrash

with the former Prisons Minister over the weekend when she celebrated her 50th birthday.

Sadly absent was Michael Howard, the nocturnal former Home Secretary, whose Tory leadership chances she destroyed. "I had asked my priest whether I should invite Michael as a gesture of peace," says Miss Widmerpool, "but he told me Howard would probably say 'peace off'." There were no such problems for Derek Lewis, former head of prisons, who took pride of place on the top table with Cardinal Hume.

John and Norma Major failed to attend. They celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary in a quiet hotel. No doubt with just a few goldfish for company.

Chris Eubank may be a fading boxer, but he can still put on a show. He surprised Brightonians the other day by ranting into a mobile phone — only for the same phone to burst into a shrill ring.

Duty calls

A CONSERVATIVE MP is in trouble with her constituency association for failing to visit her patch. Anne McIntosh was hailed before her Vale of York association at the weekend to explain absences from Saturday surgeries. The problem? McIntosh is also an MEP and, as

such, has to do an awful lot of fact-finding in Brussels. But this does not impress Yorkshire worthies: "She has to try to balance her duties," says a sombre association chairman, Geoffrey Dodsworth. "It is important for her to select her priorities. We have got to work together."

This is not the first time McIntosh has sparked controversy. She has had a fierce debate with Glyn Ford, a Labour Euro MP, who maintains that McIntosh was "disingenuous" for saying it is possible to be an MP and an MEP simultaneously. He says Labour has "banned the practice, as it is impossible to do the two jobs adequately." Looks as if Miss McIntosh could be working late tonight...

SURREAL sight on the Tube: Dr Robert Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, in full regalia, reading a newspaper.

Snowe fall

MAD MAX is about to blast into the English countryside. He is keen to acquire the beautiful house of my old friend Iain Sproul. The former Heritage Minister, now translating 10 volumes of Pushkin, is reluctantly putting historic Snowe Hall, Norfolk, on the market, and Mel Gibson, the antipodean actor, is determined to buy it.



Country acres: Mel Gibson

Locals are alarmed that the pile — which once sheltered Charles I — might fall Gibson's way. For a man who has made his loot from uncomplicated action movies, Gibson, I am assured, has developed a spiritual side. He has become a regular at the local Roman Catholic church, where he can be found kneeling at the altar. The £600,000 price is probably just a few gun fights in a flick for Mr Gibson, but the local party scene is not quite Bel Air. His only neighbour is the rather homely Gillian Shepherd.

JASPER GERARD



"He's right, a party that elects him needs reforming"



MOODY BLUES

Tory attitudes must change to create a mass membership party

In the era of the soundbite and the spin-doctor it is not surprising that so many consider the mass membership of political parties an irrelevance, a body of persons of no real importance with the possible exception of short-term finance. That assumption would be sorely mistaken. Television and new technology may have altered the means by which political ideas and attitudes are expressed, but they remain mere tools of the trade. The fundamental character of parties is shaped by those who choose to belong to them — especially those who are most actively involved. An annual conference allows, in fact obliges, these distinctive features to be presented to the outside world.

Tony Blair has certainly appreciated those qualities. The rapid expansion of Labour's membership — and the deliberate drive for diversity which that enterprise entailed — has been at the heart of his modernisation prospects. The notion of new Labour would have been impossible on the basis of the original 260,000 enrolled supporters that he inherited. It was the massive increase in members that allowed him to redesign his party anew. That same changing composition was also an essential if underestimated aspect in the sudden expansion of Labour's female parliamentary representation at the last election.

The representatives assembled in Blackpool this week are doubtless a fine set of individuals. But they personify a membership that has diminished dramatically in recent years. As a consequence, the Conservative Party in the country has become less representative of British society. That fact has been recognised by William Hague. His stated aspiration of "a million members for the millennium" might owe as much to alliteration as expectation but it is an appropriate target. The Tories' chances of a relatively swift electoral revival depend critically on whether they can meet this testing challenge.

That in turn will require a revolution in attitudes. As the Conservative Party crum-

bled and collapsed it became increasingly out of touch and out of tune with the nation around it. A party that presided over vast economic change appeared incapable of understanding the social forces that have shaped contemporary Britain. The Tories have become profoundly unattractive to large sections of the electorate. These include women, especially younger, professional women, and ethnic or sexual minorities. The social spectrum reflected by the Conservative Party at present is starkly incompatible with the aim of one million members.

The Tories are too often dominated by their "Taleban Tendency", the section that would force women out of the workplace, impose their version of traditional values, enforce censorship on television and deploy the death penalty on a daily basis. This programme is often described as "populist", although it seems to suffer from a notable absence of popularity. That failure is not the result of poor presentation but a cultural shift about which many Conservatives have chosen to remain ignorant. If the Tories are really serious about mass membership, as they should be, then they will need to stand for the neo-liberal not the neolithic. Mr Blair revived his party by insisting that it reached an accommodation with the 1980s. It is time for the Tories to sue for peace with the 1960s.

Mr Hague is well aware of his party's defects. He is hardly a stranger to the modern world. His willingness to send a message to the Gay Pride march and his attendance at the Notting Hill Carnival were intended to indicate some of his sympathies. The reaction of certain Shadow Cabinet colleagues was less than supportive. On this, as on numerous other issues, he will have to defeat the old guard in the best interests of his party's future. That his hotel arrangements with his fiancée have become a matter of critical comment in Conservative circles is a reflection of the difficulties he faces. A rather more relevant issue — and one that must be addressed — is why there are not more 29-year-old professional women resident in Blackpool hotels this week.

FAST FORWARD

Reno must treat Clinton with the same rigour as Gore

No American political scandal is ever complete without tapes. A quarter-century ago, the discovery that the Nixon White House had recorded Oval Office conversations transformed the Watergate affair. In an apt response to technological progress, the Clinton Administration has now acknowledged that videotapes exist of its infamous "coffee mornings". These tapes will help the Senate to determine whether these events were — as the President has suggested — amiable conversations that by coincidence led to major campaign contributions; or, alternatively, whether the dozens of meetings hosted by Mr Clinton constituted an illegal effort to exploit the White House for partisan financial advantage.

Neither congressional committees nor the various Justice Department inquiries into this affair can be expected to reach any immediate conclusions. Matters are not likely to evolve as they did in the 1970s. To some degree all occupants of the Oval Office have sought to use their official residence in a manner conducive to their private interests. Soliciting on site offends American law but it is not the equivalent of bugging and burglary. Nonetheless, both the Clinton-Gore '96 campaign and the Democratic National Committee appear to have ignored all previously accepted practice. That a law might be regarded as archaic and unworkable is not a reason for breaching it. This is an entirely legitimate political issue.

Despite the mounting evidence of serious misconduct, Janet Reno, US Attorney-General, has stubbornly refused to pursue these accusations fully. Vice-President Al Gore, who has admitted making telephone calls to potential supporters from his office but maintains that he acted lawfully, has been placed under preliminary investigation. Within three months he will learn

whether an independent counsel will be appointed to scrutinise his role. If, as seems probable, such a person is commissioned this will represent a serious setback to his ambitions to succeed Mr Clinton. Ms Reno's recent correspondence with the congressional leadership indicates that she will not subject the President to the same scrutiny. Republicans have reacted with fury.

It is extremely difficult to believe that Mr Gore is the sole senior figure in the Democratic Party whose conduct might merit censure. The written testimony of former White House aides such as Harold Ickes and Dick Morris portray a President desperate to raise vast sums to finance exceptionally early television commercials. Those records already released by the White House show that party operatives constantly pressed Mr Clinton to plead for political donations and that he relented on numerous occasions. The appointment of an independent counsel to investigate the entire pattern of Democratic fundraising is more than merited by the facts already known. Ms Reno is risking her previous reputation for impartiality by her reluctance to hire one.

Congress is entitled to demand such an initiative from the Attorney-General. Others are equally entitled to demand action from the legislature itself. The complicated system by which the United States regulates the interaction of money and politics has been in a state of disrepair for some decades. The Democrats' simply administered the final blow to this discredited formula last year. The Senate will this week have the opportunity to deliberate and then enact substantial campaign finance reform. Mr Clinton's critics have the opportunity to attack both the cause and effect of these scandals. They should demonstrate their willingness to do so.

SKIN DEEP

A moral foundation versus foundation cream

Ever since Paris awarded the golden apple to Aphrodite, women have quibbled about the nature of their beauty. And more often than not trouble has come of it. Different cultures have set different paradigms of pulchritude — from the svelter outlines of Cranach's Venus to the buxom sensualities of a Rubens belle. But whatever particular form the fashion of beauty has taken, it has tended to tyrannise the female psyche. "Taught from infancy that beauty is a woman's sceptre," wrote the pioneering feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, "the mind shapes itself to the body, and roaming round its gilt cage only seeks to adorn its prison."

Women have gained considerable freedom in the 200 years since Wollstonecraft. But a study published in America this week confirms that, in certain aspects at least, too little has changed. If anything, female preoccupation with appearance has been whipped up by mass media. Contemporary women, suggests the historian Joan Jacobs Brumberg in her *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*, are crippled by an obsession with their bodies. Brumberg compares the new year's resolutions of two adolescent diarists. Where the 19th-century girl resolves to think

before speaking, to work seriously and to be less selfish, her 20th-century counterpart vows to lose weight, cut her hair and buy more make-up. A good body rather than a good character has come to define the self.

A century ago, Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* were role models for the American girl. Meg was pretty, Amy was vain, but the heroine was Jo, the tomboy who sometimes envied her sisters' good looks. But beauty corrupts. Literature is scattered with admonitory examples of this. Charles Dickens's *Little Dorrit* was "not beautiful in feature" but she had an inexhaustible capacity to care for others. Jane Eyre may have been "plain", but she was possessed of a fortitude and honesty which won her fulfilment. Jane Austen's pretty Fanny Dashwood is selfish and uncompassionate. Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca was exquisite, but she was also cold and cruel.

Such literary figures provide ample counterweight to today's shallow narcissism. Keats was not writing about aesthetics when he said that truth was beauty. And beauty, it has always been known, is only skin deep. As every adolescent knows, this does not mean that she should go out and invest in a foun 'ation cream.

Psychiatrists face dilemma on DNA

From Dr M. S. Humphreys and Dr B. J. Brockman

Sir, The Criminal Evidence (Amendment) Act 1997, which came into force last March, gives new powers to the police to obtain non-invasive material for DNA profiling. Such material will be in the form of hair or saliva samples from persons who have committed certain recordable offences.

The provision applies to those convicted before April 10, 1995, who are serving a prison sentence. It also extends to mentally disordered individuals detained under Part III of the Mental Health Act 1983, including not only those admitted to hospital by order of the court after conviction but also persons acquitted of an offence on the grounds of insanity or found unfit to plead as a result of psychiatric illness.

Home Office circular 27/1997 makes it clear that the patient's doctor may delay the taking of samples if this might be counter-therapeutic. However, the Act states that it may be done without the patient's consent. The power lapses when the patient is discharged from hospital.

This situation poses huge ethical and practical dilemmas for psychiatrists. It lies in the face of the notion that those who receive a psychiatric disposal from court are no longer considered to be prisoners. It implies that they are not patients who merit compassionate treatment, and it is likely to compromise a therapeutic relationship which may already have been difficult to establish.

The law lumps together those of sound mind convicted of serious offences with a small but no less significant group of individuals who, through no fault of their own, may not even have been fit to appear in court. Others, albeit on technical grounds, may actually have been acquitted.

This matter should be of concern not simply to mental healthcare professionals working with some of the most damaged and rejected individuals in society but surely to the community at large. It goes to the heart of the issue over how we treat those disadvantaged by the stigma of mental illness.

Yours etc,

MARTIN HUMPHREYS
(Senior lecturer and honorary consultant forensic psychiatrist),
B. J. BROCKMAN
(Consultant forensic psychiatrist),
Reaside Clinic.

The West Midlands Regional Forensic Psychiatry Service,
Birmingham Great Park,
Bristol Road South,
Rugby, Birmingham.
October 1.

Young and homeless

From the Chief Executive of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux

Sir, October 7 marks the first anniversary of benefit cuts which dealt a cruel blow to thousands of vulnerable young people. A year ago, housing benefit paid to under-25s on low incomes — both in and out of work — was restricted to the average cost of a room in shared accommodation.

Since then, Citizens Advice Bureaux all over the country have been inundated with cases of young people who are now homeless, threatened with eviction, or experiencing severe hardship as a direct result of these cuts.

In many areas single young people, most of them dependent on the private rented sector, now find it impossible to get affordable accommodation to rent. Others have been forced out of existing tenancies because the help they were getting towards their rent has been slashed. Landlords are telling many more looking for a home that they no longer let to anyone under the age of 25.

Last week in Brighton the Prime Minister talked about compassion with a hard edge (report, October 7). Even if the Government is unmoved by the plight of the young people seeking help from us — and I don't believe it is — it must be disturbed by the threat posed to the success of its welfare-to-work programme. Homelessness is one of the biggest obstacles of all to moving successfully from unemployment into paid work.

The Government has promised a new deal for disadvantaged young people. It could not make a better start in fulfilling that promise than to reverse this cruellest of cuts.

Yours etc,
DAVID HARKER,
Chief Executive, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux,
Myddelton House,
115-123 Pentonville Road, NI,
October 6.

Green and healthy

From the Headmaster of Wycliff College

Sir, Russell Jenkins tells us (report, October 2) that early photographs show vegetarians as corpulent.

Until the 1980s Wycliff College had a boys' vegetarian house. Charts indicating that vegetarian swimmers and athletes performed better are still framed on the college walls. Regrettably, today, scholarships available to vegetarians remain unclaimed.

Piscivorously yours,
DAVID PRICHARD,
Headmaster, Wycliff College,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire,
October 2.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Marriage vows for today: to love and honour, not 'obey'

From the Reverend John R. M. Cook

Sir, It was Montgomery who once told Sandhurst cadets that it was unwise to marry until they had mastered the art of warfare. The Apostle Paul would not have agreed for he reminds us that it is unwise for a man to marry until his attitude is one of self-sacrifice.

Although some did and continue to think of woman as subordinate to man (report, "Brides will not obey in new church service", October 3) creation and the actions and words of Jesus do not allow such a conclusion. It would help if the liturgical commission would remember God loves diversity, and equality of worth does not demand sameness of role. Indeed, Ephesians v. 21-33, reminds us that in Christian marriage, undergirded by mutual submission, wives are to be like the Church and obey, and husbands to be like Christ and lay down their lives for their wife.

Arguably the husband has the more exacting duty. "Obey", "submit" and "sacrifice" are incendiary words in Britain today, but the *Zeitgeist* should not cause historic Anglicanism's liturgy to lose its biblical moorings.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. M. COOK
(Director of Training),
All Souls Church,
Langham Place, W1.
October 3.

From Canon Michael Saward

Sir, In over 40 years of conducting hundreds of marriage services according to Church of England rites, first from the Book of Common Prayer and more recently from the Alternative Service Book, I have only twice had adamant refusals from brides to use the word "obey". This was because I have always made a point of explaining that the services have a comple-

mentary balance between Christ, the bridegroom, and the Church, the bride. This is, of course, a crucial sacramental link set out in the New Testament and in the marriage service. The husband's role is one of total self-giving and the wife's one of total response.

In the ancient world the idea that a husband was required to "love" his wife was a radical departure introduced by Christians and far more shocking than the idea that a wife should "obey". Virtually every couple to whom I have explained this have gladly accepted the complementarity, asking only that I should briefly spell this out to the congregation before the vows were taken.

In no way have I perpetuated the idea of wily "obedience" as being distinct from the sacrificial love required of the husband. The liturgical commission needs to leave "obey" as at least an optional possibility in future marriage liturgies.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SAWARD
(Canon Treasurer of
St Paul's Cathedral),
6 Amen Court, EC4.
October 3.

From the Reverend Canon Bertie Webb

Sir, It was a surprise that a bishop, chairman of the liturgical commission, should be reported as reiterating the frequently repeated error that in the 1662 Prayer Book service the bride is "given away". The phrase is given "to be married". The *Times* mostly reports marriages in this style using the phrase "given in marriage".

Yours faithfully,
BERTIE WEBB,
2 Dolphin Close, St John's, Worcester.
October 3.

From Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain

Sir, The inclusive thinking affecting Church of England marriage services has permeated Jewish weddings too. And rightly so.

Moreover, the changes have not just been in official revisions to the wording of the text, but also innovations suggested by the couples themselves, such as having both a best man and a best woman.

As for the custom of the groom smashing a glass underfoot at the end of the wedding — a sign that amidst all our joys we should not forget those who live in broken and in pain, but often waggishly interpreted as the last time a man can put his foot down — I was delighted when a bride decided that she too should stamp on a glass.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN ROMAIN,
Maidenhead Synagogue,
9 Boy's Hill Avenue,
Maidenhead, Berkshire,
October 3.

From Mr Ronald V. Wells

Sir, Discussion as to whether a bride should say "obey" reminds me of my own wedding on August 19, 1939.

In the prayer book service that was coming into use the bride could choose whether to say "obey" or not. I said to my bride: "I will not have you promise anything so absurd." She replied: "Very well dear, if you say so, I won't."

Sadly, she died on June 16 this year. We were still as deeply in love as we were on the day we married.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD V. WELLS,
Belmont Castle Retirement Home,
Portsmouth Hill Road,
Bedhampton, Hampshire,
October 3.

Morton and Red Cross

From Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC

Sir, The sounds of the gnashing of teeth and the beating of breasts over events surrounding the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, appear, at least temporarily, to have drowned out the anguished cries of landmine victims and the suffering everywhere who number amongst the needy and deserving "constituents" of the Red Cross.

If the Red Cross is genuinely hesitating over accepting a substantial donation from Mr Andrew Morton and his publisher (report, October 6) its senior executives must be suffering from a confused sense of duty and morality. The role of the Red Cross, while remaining neutral, is to negotiate between warring factions and protect and assist the victims of armed con-

flict. It needs all the money it can get.

Anyone who has been involved in organising events to raise money for charitable causes knows just how difficult it can be to raise even a few hundred pounds for a good cause. As far as is known Mr Morton has committed no crime but is charged with bad taste and poor timing.

If those responsible for fundraising on behalf of the Red Cross are prepared to turn down a reported offer of £250,000 in these circumstances they should be removed from office forthwith and made to stand outside a supermarket with a collection tin for all eternity or until they have collected a similar amount, whichever is the sooner.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD THWAITES,
10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
October 6.

UN reform

From Mr D. J. Shaw

Sir, Your leader of September 24, "The unreformed UN", and reports on the same day about the clash between the British Foreign Secretary and the Chairman of the UN Security Council Relations Committee over payment by member states of their dues, are reminders of the urgent need to reform the world's most important institution.

The reforms proposed by the Secretary-General are confined to the UN secretariat in New York and to its funds and programmes. Without the removal of the policy and operational rifts between the World Bank and IMF and the rest of the UN system they will have little effect. Reform of the UN specialised agencies and effective co-ordination of the leadership system are other vital concerns.

The proposals say nothing about the process of appointment of the Sec-

retary-General and of the executive heads of the UN organisations, while those designed to improve senior management appear to be excessively top-heavy, in keeping with UN tradition and practice.

Evidently, something must be done to end the persistent state of near-bankruptcy in which the UN organisation has been living for too long. Various forms of international taxation have been mooted that would give the UN independent resources. Or is the UN to rely on the philanthropic whims of billionaires, well-meaning as they might be?

It is now absurd that decisions on reform are being forced through by the greatest debtor member state.

Yours constructively,
D. JOHN SHAW
(Head, Policy Affairs Service, UN World Food Programme, 1990-94),
112 Kenwood Drive,
Beckenham, Kent,
September 24.

Palliative care

From Professor Michael Rosen

Sir, You report (September 26) that Sir Ludovic Kennedy, at the Liberal Democrats Conference, spoke in support of a successful motion urging the Government to establish a review of the law on helping terminally ill patients to die. He complained that what modern medicine "... has not done for many of the dying is improve their quality of life."

That may be partly true but the goal of palliative care is the "achievement of the best quality of life for patients and their family" (World Health Organisation). This new speciality (recognised by the NHS in 1987), in association with general practice, is developing fast, providing many in-patient and home facilities for those with difficult symptoms, and undergraduate and postgraduate education as well as research.

It is not a change in the law that is required. Education is the key to successful palliative care for all, together with better targeting of resources.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL ROSEN
(President, Royal College of Anaesthetists, 1988-1991),
45 Hollybush Road, Cardiff,
September 29.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Britannia's successor

From Mr Maldwin Drummond

Sir, Further to your report (September 30, later editions) about plans for an export-led replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, I would remind your readers that our well-developed proposal for a royal sail training ship would bring together the head of state, UK plc and youth training, with the single aim of together serving Britain.

The figures are attractive: £65 million for construction, without the need for Treasury involvement, running costs of £5.8 million and a revenue of £9 million. The surplus after tax and depreciation would be £1 million, and that would go back into youth training.

The royal sail training ship, for the funding of which the Cadland Consortium was formed five years ago, would have a crew of 60, as opposed to *Britannia's* complement of around 230. Some 3,500 Queen's Cadets would benefit each year, and the vessel would be built in this country, employing craftsmen from around Britain and perhaps the Commonwealth.

To quote Libby Purves (Weekend, February 3, 1996), "how fine it would be if we turned out to be nation enough for such a ship".

Yours faithfully,
MALDWIN DRUMMOND
(Chairman),
The Cadland Consortium,
Cadland House,
Fawley, Southampton, Hampshire,
October 1.

Hunting ban

From Professor Patrick Bateson, FRS

Sir, Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison states in his letter (October 2) that many scientists disagree with my conclusions about red deer hunted with hounds. A great many others disagree with their disagreements.

Such divisions of opinion are inevitable when powerful vested interests are threatened by scientific data. I am not, therefore, surprised by the support drummed up by the Countryside Alliance. However, no evidence has been produced that contradicts the findings in my report to the National Trust, which has reaffirmed its ban on hunting (report, October 3).

The critics suggest that the results could be due to poor methodology. If they are right, clear-cut results would not have been obtained. The strength of the findings is powerful testimony that hunting with hounds causes very severe psychological and physiological stress to red deer.

The attempts by the Countryside Alliance to discredit the work carried out by my research associate, Dr Bradshaw, and myself will doubtless ensure that this dispute will rumble on for some time to come. However, I must clear up one statement in Mr Hanbury-Tenison's letter. He claims that I am being secretive about the data. Over the summer I have given four scientific seminars, including one for a symposium organised on behalf of the Countryside Alliance by Lord Soulsby. Dr Bradshaw has given another four. I have offered publicly to go over the data with any serious critic, and a number have availed themselves of the opportunity.

Most important of all, the major findings have been written up and submitted to a leading scientific journal. The paper was reviewed by anonymous referees and has been accepted for publication in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK BATESON,
The Provost's Lodge,
King's College, Cambridge,
October 3.

World wide web

From Mr Hamish Carmichael

Sir, Every morning the paths in our garden are newly blocked by orb-spun cobwebs of unprecedented magnificence, each with a large resident spider. I cannot remember another autumn like it. Friends have made similar comments. What does it mean?

Yours faithfully,
J. W. S. CARMICHAEL,
63 Collingwood Avenue,
Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey,
October 4.

Not at home

From Mr Trevor Davies

Sir, I recently had the bizarre experience of being rung up by an answering machine. It told me in regretful tones that it was not in, but I could leave a message which would be dealt with between nine and five the next day.

I apologised for being in when the caller was out.

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR DAVIES,
56 Hurdeswell,
Long Hanborough, Oxford,
September 28.

OBITUARIES

OTTO ERNST REMER

Otto Ernst Remer, former Nazi security chief, died in Spain on October 5 aged 85. He was born in 1912.

Although Otto Ernst Remer was the Nazi "hero" who played a leading role in the suppression of the 1944 plot to overthrow Hitler — and in the postwar period became a living symbol of loyalty to Nazism — a close examination of his conduct on July 20, 1944, reveals that he was at first quite unsure of what to do when news of the attempt on Hitler's life reached Berlin.

Major Remer was commander of the vitally important *Wachbataillon Grossdeutschland*, stationed at Döberitz just outside the city, when at 4pm on the day of the plot he was ordered by the Berlin Commandant, General von Hase, one of the conspirators, to place his troops on a state of immediate alert and prepare to seize the government quarter, Claus von Stauffenberg, the leader of the plot, who was at that time on his way back to Berlin, having heard the bomb go off and being convinced that Hitler was dead, was aware that control of the *Wachbataillon Grossdeutschland* was vital in the early stages of the coup. Indeed, even with Hitler surviving the bomb attack on him, control of Berlin would still have put the conspirators in a very strong position.

Up to that point, though he was a loyal officer, Remer had not been particularly enthusiastic Nazi; his main concern was to make sure that he ended up on the winning side. He, therefore, obeyed von Hase's orders, and prepared to move his unit to the Wilhelmstrasse to seal off the ministry buildings.

At this point, however, one of his subordinates, a Lieutenant Hagen, who was an ardent Nazi, suggested to Remer that it might be politic to telephone Hitler's field headquarters, the *Wolfsschanze* (Wolf's Lair) at Rastenburg in East Prussia, to try to ascertain the truth of the rumours that were already



Remer addressing a meeting of his neo-Nazi *Sozialistische Reichspartei* in 1950

circulating in the city. Remer, who had not long before been decorated with the *Ritterkreuz* (Knight's Cross) by Hitler, appreciated the sagacity of Hagen's observations and, while his troops moved into positions in the Wilhelmstrasse, began to have about the wisdom of what was afoot. At the same time von Hase, for the conspirators, though himself uncertain of the precise degree of the success of the bomb attack on Hitler at Rastenburg, ordered Remer to stand firm.

But by now, the energetic Hagen was making the running. He made contact with Goebbels, who besides being Propaganda Minister was also *Gauleiter* of Berlin.

Goebbels told him to order the *Wachbataillon*'s commander to report to him immediately. He was able to tell Remer that Hitler was very far from dead, merely slightly injured, and then proceeded to arrange what was to be a fateful telephone call. Realising the seriousness of the situation, Goebbels obtained a line through to the *Wolfsschanze* and persuaded Hitler to come to the telephone in person to speak to the relatively junior officer in charge of his Berlin security unit.

But, although his political teeth were now completely drawn, Remer continued to preach the Nazi gospel, talking of the "Auschwitz lie" and fulminating against Jews. In 1944 he fled to Spain after his appeal against a 22-month sentence for "inciting hate, violence and racism" had been turned down. There he lived in exile, confident in the protection of right-wing elements in the police, army and Guardia Civil, through their ties with Fascist officers of the Franco era. He was also safe from extradition to Germany, since a Spanish court ruled last year that the crimes for which he had been sentenced have no equivalent in Spanish law.

On August 7, 1944, after being sentenced to death by the People's Court earlier. In the following weeks hundreds more conspirators, known and suspected, were rounded up and put to death. For his work in helping to suppress the plot, Remer was given accelerated promotion to major-general.

By this time he had come to believe in the myth attached to him from the events of July 20, 1944. He was now, and remained, an ardent Nazi. Escaping any form of retribution after the war, he set himself to keep the party's principles alive, while the rest of Germany was attempting to struggle back to moral decency under the leadership of the Konrad Adenauer and the Christian Democrat statesmen of the Rhineland.

In 1950, with Count Wistarp, he founded the *Sozialistische Reichspartei* (SRP) which vilified the Bonn Government and aimed to revive the Nazi movement. Besides denigrating the very notion of democracy as being something unfitted to the iron soul of the German people, Remer also launched venomous attacks on the "criminals of July 1944" as the idealistic conspirators were styled by the SRP. The words were carefully chosen to echo Hitler's description of the first democratic politicians of the Germany which emerged after the First World War as "the criminals of 1918".

In March 1952 the German High Court sentenced Remer to three months' imprisonment for slandering the July plotters as traitors. In October the SRP was banned as unconstitutional. But, although his political teeth were now completely drawn, Remer continued to preach the Nazi gospel, talking of the "Auschwitz lie" and fulminating against Jews. In 1944 he fled to Spain after his appeal against a 22-month sentence for "inciting hate, violence and racism" had been turned down. There he lived in exile, confident in the protection of right-wing elements in the police, army and Guardia Civil, through their ties with Fascist officers of the Franco era. He was also safe from extradition to Germany, since a Spanish court ruled last year that the crimes for which he had been sentenced have no equivalent in Spanish law.

Remer died in the Andalusian resort town of Marbella.

LADY BROOK

Lady Brook, founder of the Brook Advisory Centres, died on October 3 aged 89. She was born on October 12, 1907.



HELEN BROOK played a vital role in the sexual revolution of the 1960s and, although she believed in neither free love nor single-parent families, she was the first to offer contraceptive advice and services not only to unmarried women but also to young people under the age of 16.

Helen Knewstubb, as she was before her first marriage, was born into the arts world of Chelsea, where her young mother gave birth to her in an upstairs room at the Chénill Gallery. Her grandfather had been a friend and a pupil of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and her father, John Knewstubb, had founded the Chénill Gallery to exhibit work by such artists as Augustus John and Jacob Epstein, as well as by his brothers-in-law, William Orpen and William Rothenstein.

One of six children, she was educated at a convent in Sussex (her mother had converted to Roman Catholicism when she was quite young, but Helen later reverted to Anglicanism). When she was only 18 she decided to marry George Whitaker, leader of the Chénill Chamber Orchestra. Unfortunately, she found married life dull and, despite having an infant daughter, amicably and courageously asked for a divorce. She then spent two years with her daughter as a painter in Paris, a time that she later described as one of the happiest in her life. On her return to London, she met and, in 1937, married Robin Brook: a merchant banker, he was knighted in 1974.

In 1952, when Helen Brook found herself gloomy and depressed, a friend offered her a "little job" doing voluntary work as an interviewer for the Islington Family Planning Association. She soon joined the association's national executive committee and, after Marie Stopes's death in 1958, took over as director of the Marie Stopes Memorial Clinic in 1961.

Only in 1957 had the association changed its rules to offer contraceptive advice to "pre-maritals", women who were to be married within six weeks, but at the Stopes Clinic in 1963, two years after the launch of the contraceptive pill, Helen Brook began quiet-

ly to see unmarried women. Word quickly spread, and women came from as far away as Scotland, convincing her of the real need for such a service and bringing the moral issue out into the open.

Her revolutionary views threatened to split the Family Planning Association. The storm of controversy she provoked led her to leave the association and to found a separate organisation. In July 1964, with an anonymous gift of £15,000 from one of her husband's colleagues, John Trust, and a small annual grant from Stopes, the first Brook Advisory Centre for Young People opened in Daves Street, Watworth.

The Brook Advisory Centres have always been involved in both counselling and education as well as birth control, and Helen Brook ensured that the atmosphere in all the centres was informal and pleasant.

In 1967, a year when 2,700 girls under the age of 16 became pregnant, Helen Brook caused further scandal by offering confidential advice to girls under 16 without informing their GPs or parents. Again, she countered the scandalised reaction of some newspapers with the argument that ignorance does not ensure innocence.

By 1974, free contraception had become available on the NHS, but Helen Brook continued to press for greater awareness of the issues surrounding women's health, such as the

establishment of well-women clinics and counselling for menopausal women. Helen Brook was a fervent upholder of the slogan "Every child, a wanted child". She also believed passionately that women should enjoy opportunities equal to men's, and that in order to achieve true independence women had to be able to avoid unwanted pregnancies. She has been both attacked as one of the founders of the permissive society and hailed as a doyen of women's sexual liberation.

During the early 1980s a small lobby, led by a mother of ten children, Victoria Gillick, began voicing intense opposition to the provision of contraception to young people. This culminated in the Court of Appeal decision of 1984 (*Gillick v DHSS*) prohibiting doctors from providing contraception without parental consent to the under-16s. This ruling was reversed in the House of Lords nine months later.

Despite serious eye problems in later life, Helen continued to support the Brook Advisory Centres in every way she could — mainly through the continuing exercise of her great charisma and her simple faith in the justice of her desire to see no more women prevented from fulfilling their potential because of ignorance about their own sexuality.

Lady Brook is survived by her husband, Sir Robin Brook, by their two daughters and by the daughter of her first marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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THE TIMES

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LEEDS MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

Leeds, Oct. 5 The final concert of the festival proper opened today with a noble performance of Beethoven's mass in D, in which the choir did their heavy task with the greatest success. The Leeds singers are without rivals in the kingdom, and therefore in the world, for the beauty and sonority of their tone and for the extraordinary "staying power" which has been remarkably displayed this week. In their performance the cruelty of the composer is not forced upon the attention of the hearers by an obvious straining on the part of the choir: their powers in this respect have made the Leeds Festival what it is, and for indomitable vocal vigour the public are accustomed to look to it with the certainty of not being disappointed. If on one or two occasions it has been possible to imagine more perfect gradations of light and shade, the performance of this morning left nothing to be desired in this or any other respect. In the numbers in which the solo quartet is associated with the chorus the tone of the latter was so subdued and so fine in quality that the most perfect balance was obtained. It is true that in the difficult chromatic passages of the section "In gloriam

ON THIS DAY

October 7, 1859

The 19th century saw the founding of music festivals (mainly choral) in several cities, including Leeds where the first was held in 1838, continuing triennially until 1870. Early performances included Vaughan Williams's A Sea Symphony (1910) and Walton's Belshazzar's Feast (1931)

Del patris" of the Gloria a very slight uncertainty was displayed at one or two points, but this was the only defect that could possibly be discovered. Excepting a somewhat serious uncertainty at the beginning of the *presto* of the *Agnus Dei*, the orchestra was at its very best, and the performance, under Sir Arthur Sullivan, at least as fine as that of 1883. The soloists were Misses Medora Henson and Hilka Wilson, Messrs Ben Davies and Andrew Black, all of whom did excellently. Mr. Frye Parker played the violin *obbligato* in the "Benediction" with much artistic skill. The second part of the concert began with Schumann's Symphony in B flat, played with

much care and sympathy. Mendelssohn's psalm "As the hart pants" brought the festival, properly speaking, to a close. The solo parts were sung by Miss Medora Henson, Messrs Ben Davies, Hilwen Jones, Andrew Black, and Bisham. At the usual extra concert in the evening, the programme consisted of the first part of *The Creation* and *The Golden Legend*. It is unfortunately impossible to bestow unequalled praise upon the arrangements of the festival, although the officials have, no doubt, spared no pains in this direction. The extraordinary success of the week, due no doubt in great measure to the Royal patronage it has received, has brought several evil results in its train, and has emphasized certain drawbacks of arrangement that have always existed. To say nothing of various manifestations of a "penny-wise" policy, worst of which was the dangerous overcrowding of the room by chairs placed in every available spot, the difficulties imposed upon ingress and egress with an arbitrary tyranny happily unknown elsewhere, add greatly to the already serious dangers arising from the curiously unworkable plan of the corridors the slightest panic in the audience, even were it causeless, must inevitably result in a fearful loss of life, and it is a matter of sincere thankfulness whenever a Leeds festival ends with no mishap.

Equitas surplus of £617m exceeds City expectations

By JON ASHWORTH

EQUITAS, the company set up to take over billions of pounds in questionable insurance claims from the old Lloyd's of London, far exceeded expectations during its first seven months in business.

The company, which has again seen its accounts heavily qualified by its auditors, Coopers & Lybrand, increased its surplus to £617 million (£588 million) in the seven months to end-March. The ratio of surplus to liabilities rose from 5.6 per cent to 7.1 per cent, buoyed

by strong underlying cash-flows and lower than expected claims payouts. Headhunters have been appointed to find a replacement for David Newbigging, the Equitas chairman, who is to step down next year. Mr Newbigging, who formerly ran Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong, guided Equitas through its start-up phase, and said that the time was right to hand on to a successor. The search is being led by Whitehead Mann.

Hailing the encouraging financial trend, Mr Newbigging said: "We have not encountered any major surprises, nor have we identified any external event, trend or emerging issue that we believe would endanger the financial stability of Equitas." The company paid £2.5 billion in claims and operating expenses — lower than forecast — and collected £840 million in reinsurance on paid claims during the period, higher than expected. Investment return totalled £256 million.

Equitas assumed responsibility for 400 Lloyd's syndicates comprising more than 740 open years of accounts, and faces an uphill struggle in assessing the quality of the information it has inherited. The collective liabilities represent perhaps the most difficult claims portfolio ever assembled by one company, with a concentration of asbestos, pollution and health-hazard (AHP) claims that will take decades to run off.

For this reason, the Equitas accounts are likely to remain heavily qualified for some time to come. Jane Barker, the Equitas finance director, said steps were being taken to improve the quality of the data, although the nature of the business was such that the accounts would never entirely be free of uncertainty. Sir David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, said names and clients would be "encouraged" by the progress shown by Equitas. Sir David Berriman, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM), welcomed the results, but cautioned: "Members should note that there is a very long way to go before all uncertainties are removed, and unpleasant surprises remain a possibility for a long time to come."

Equitas hosts an open meeting of names in London next month.

France Telecom share price set

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE FRENCH Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, set the price for France Telecom shares at Fr187 (£19.68) yesterday, and proclaimed the partial privatisation a popular success.

The price values the world's fourth-biggest telecommunications operator at Fr187 billion and promises a swift return for investors.

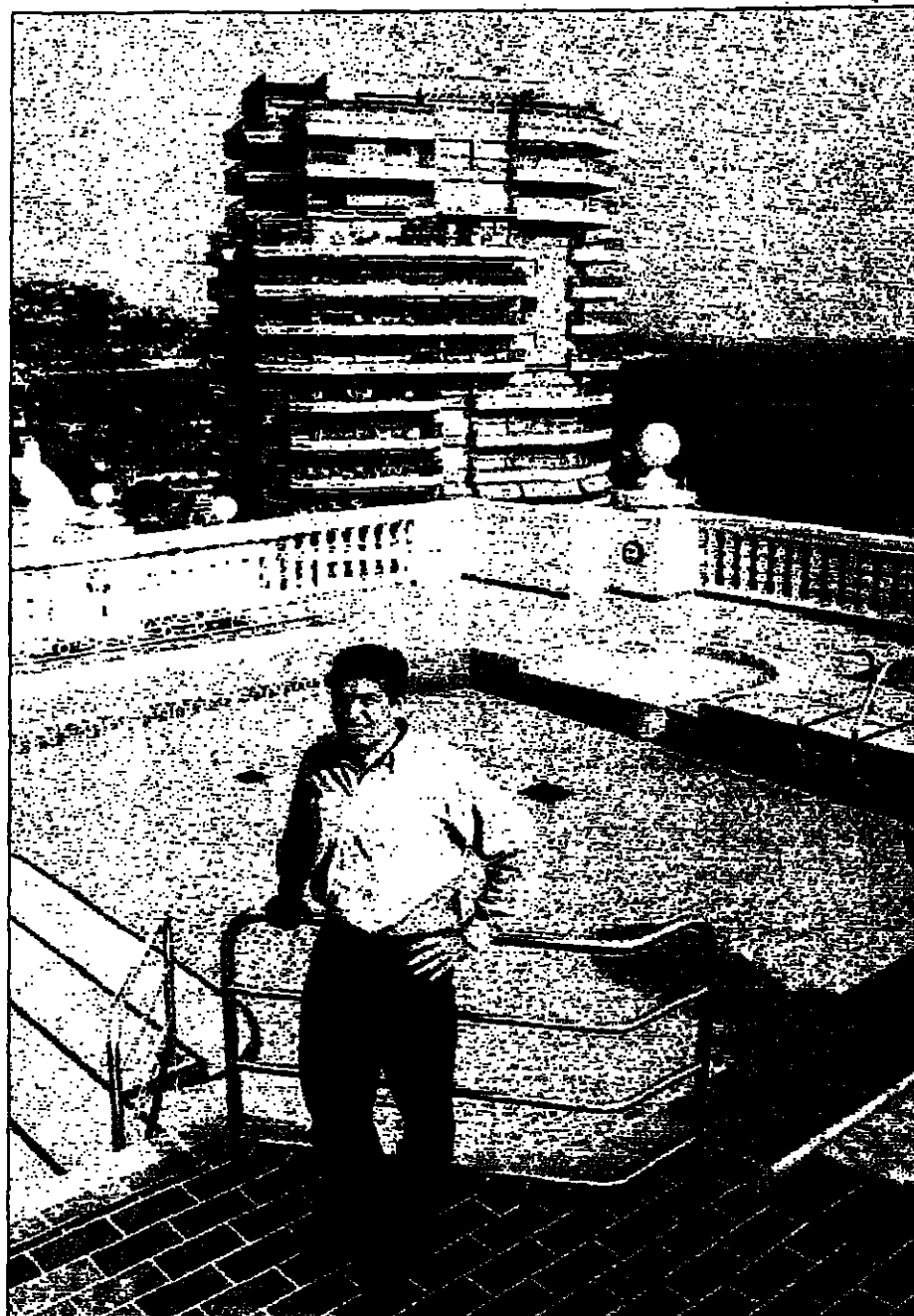
with analysts predicting shares will start trading at more than Fr300.

M. Strauss-Kahn said the sale would raise about Fr42 billion for the French state and attract more than 2.5 million small investors. That raises the curious prospect of the Socialist-led government, which flagged its hostility to privatisations before winning power in June, presiding over one of the country's most popular capitalist ventures.

M. Strauss-Kahn will float about 20 per cent of the shares on the Paris and New York stock markets, with just under half of this tranche reserved for small shareholders. About 10 per cent of the 115 million shares initially reserved for institutional investors may be made available to the public. Up to 10 per cent of France Telecom's shares will be offered to Deutsche Telekom, its partner in the Global One alliance.



Strauss-Kahn: set price



High life: Ashley Levett, relaxing by the pool, will be waiting to see if the SFO drops its inquiry

US drops Winchester suit

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Serious Fraud Office (SFO) may be close to dropping its investigation into Winchester Commodities, the controversial metals trader caught up in the Sumitomo copper scandal.

Pressure on the SFO to desist came as a group of American investors announced that they were dropping a class action suit against Winchester and its Monaco-based owners, Charlie

"Copperfinger" Vincent and Ashley Levett. The US investors commenced proceedings last year against the Winchester camp, together with Sumitomo, and its former chief metals trader, Yasuo Hamanaka. The action, alleging market manipulation, was brought on behalf of a class of individuals who were said to have suffered as a result of the activities of the defendants. The action

against Sumitomo and Hamanaka continues. The decision to drop US proceedings was welcomed by Mr Vincent, who was formerly managing director of Winchester. He said: "I am delighted that these allegations have been withdrawn. Not a shred of evidence has ever been produced to support them and their withdrawal was therefore inevitable."

Friendly bid to save Worms from raider

WORMS & COMPAGNIE, the French conglomerate that owns a 40 per cent stake in Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the London-listed paper manufacturer, is at the centre of a Fr30 billion (£3.6 billion) hostile bid after Italy's Agnelli family and AGF, the French insurance group, announced a friendly bid to counter the hostile raid launched last month by François Pinault. The transaction would leave the Agnelli in control of the holding company and see AGF take over Worms's Athena insurance unit, which is valued at Fr12 billion.

The bid was launched after a weekend of talks with Worms's family shareholders, who own a 22.1 per cent stake. AGF has 7.6 per cent of the capital and the Somel unit of the Agnelli-controlled IRI Holding has 20 per cent. AGF said its cash and shares bid valued Worms shares at Fr465.36 and the holding at between Fr30.36 billion and Fr33.06 billion. M. Pinault, who controls the retail giant Pinault Printemps Redoute, offered Fr410 per share in the biggest hostile bid ever in France. On Friday, Worms's supervisory board rejected the hostile bid and announced a 55 per cent rise in interim profits to Fr1.2 billion.

More directors banned

A RECORD number of company directors were disqualified over the past year. A total of 1,219 directors were banned — 179 after being convicted of company-related offences. The Department of Trade and Industry looked into complaints about 1,297 firms, resulting in 762 potential cases for investigation, of which 252 were proceeded with. Nigel Griffiths, the Trade Minister, said: "Too many members of the public are falling prey to unscrupulous directors, and too many honest traders are being undercut by dishonest ones."

FedEx buys parcel firm

FEDERAL EXPRESS has agreed to acquire Caliber System, a parcels service, for \$2.4 billion (about £1.49 billion), it was announced yesterday. FedEx Corp, the new company, which will employ 170,000 worldwide, is aiming to become a \$15 billion powerhouse in global transportation and logistics with two independent networks serving the express and non-express markets through five business units. Caliber's Ohio headquarters will close, and the 150 employees there will be offered positions at FedEx Corp or a subsidiary.

C&W's American move

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, is opening a regulatory office in Washington to handle any group lobbying or negotiations with the Federal Communications Commission. C&W said yesterday that the aim of setting up the office was to ensure that the company was able to speak with one voice in Washington. It played down reports that the move meant that the company was once again thinking of joining any particular partnership in the US market.

O&R expansion plan

OWEN & ROBINSON, the fashion retail group, is planning to open two stores on prime sites in Manchester and Glasgow under the Capolito Roma name. Owen & Robinson recently merged with Capolito Roma, the menswear fashion retailer, and operates the Foothold chain of shoe stores. The group has 60 stores in total. The new 904 sq m Manchester site has four storeys, while the Glasgow store covers 1,115 sq m on two levels. Both will open on December 1. The group plans to open further stores around the country.

TJ Hughes prospers

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store operator, provided further evidence of strong consumer demand yesterday, with doubled interim pre-tax profits of £753,000. The chain, which is based in the North West of England, enjoyed like-for-like sales growth of 6.8 per cent in the six months to July 31. Margins were maintained. The company is to pay an interim dividend on December 31 of 0.97p, compared with 0.84p last time. Shares in TJ Hughes rose by 2½ p. to 103p, yesterday.

Andrews Sykes ahead

ANDREWS SYKES GROUP, the supplier of air conditioning, pumping and heating equipment, enjoyed a recovery in interim profits to £5.05 million, from £3.4 million, in the half-year to June 29. The improvement was helped by the absence of the more extreme weather conditions that blighted the first half of 1996. Earnings were 21p a share, up from 14.2p, and the interim dividend is lifted to 5p a share from 3.5p. Turnover was little changed at £27.4 million, compared with £26.1 million.

LAWS £46m purchase

LAWS, the agri-foods business based in the Republic of Ireland, is buying Cuisine de France, a supplier of French breads, confectionery and savoury products, for a maximum profit-related consideration of Ir£51 million (£46 million). Although the business is also based in Ireland, it has a growing presence in the UK, which accounts for 36 per cent of turnover. Cuisine de France earned pre-tax profits of Ir£4.1 million in the year to February 1. The existing management team will remain with the enlarged group.

Alwaleed adds to hotels

PRINCE Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi billionaire, is expanding his hotel interests with the purchase of a 30 per cent stake in the Swiss company Moevenpick Hotels and Resorts for an undisclosed sum. He will also forge an alliance with Moevenpick AG, which owns the remaining 70 per cent. Prince Alwaleed already has a substantial hotel portfolio. Moevenpick operates almost 40 hotels with more than 7,000 rooms in ten countries. There are plans for more hotels in Germany, the Middle East, Far East and North Africa.

September car sales roar ahead

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

THE surge in new car sales shows no sign of abating, with registrations rising by 16.7 per cent in September. Carmakers had feared an autumn slump after record sales in the vital August market, but figures issued yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed their worries were unnecessary.

Registrations in September were 160,739, up from 138,059 in September of last year. Ford led the market, with its Escort, Mondeo and Fiesta the three bestsellers.

Overall sales so far this year are up 7.2 per cent, year on year, at 1.77 million, with the industry looking for one of its best years ever. Ernie Thompson, the society's chief executive, said that the September boost had stirred optimism.

The ten bestselling cars in September were: 1. Ford Escort (10,167); 2. Ford Mondeo (9,260); 3. Ford Fiesta (8,190); 4. Vauxhall Vectra (6,969); 5. Vauxhall Astra (6,409); 6. Vauxhall Corsa (5,473); 7. Peugeot 306 (4,592); 8. Rover 200 (4,346); 9. Renault Megane (4,326); 10. Peugeot 106 (4,022).

Guinness control put to test

By DOMINIC WALSH

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, yesterday renewed his assault on the proposed merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan by announcing the appointment of a panel of arbitrators to rule on the "control" event.

The arbitration process will decide whether the £24 billion merger between the two British companies constitutes, in practice, a change of control at Guinness. GrandMet shareholders will end up with 53 per cent of the combined group.

Under an agreement dating back to the time when LVMH and Guinness took cross-holdings in each other, LVMH has the option to buy Guinness's interests in all drinks distribution joint ventures in the event of a change of control or takeover. It also has the option to repurchase at a discount Guinness's 34 per cent stake in LVMH's Moët Hennessy arm.

The panel is comprised of three senior French judges, Serge Lazareff, Matthieu de Boissesson, and Bernard Hanotiau.

Occidental pays \$3.6bn as US sells oilfield

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

QCCENTAL Petroleum, the US oil group, yesterday bought the Elk Hills oilfield for \$3.65 billion (£2.4 billion) in the largest privatisation in American history. Elk Hills, near Bakersfield, California, has more than 1,000 producing wells on 47,000 acres and also includes some gas reserves. Daily production runs to 60,000 barrels

of oil and 400 million cubic feet of natural gas. About 200 oil companies, mainly American, bid for Elk Hills. BP said that it did not because its Northern American interests are focused on Alaska. The US Department of Energy declined to name failed bidders. Elk Hills was set aside at the turn of the century as a source of oil for the US Navy.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Bank	Buy	Bank	Buy	Bank	Buy
Australia \$	2.23	2.18	Malta	0.082	0.083	Switzerland	1.70
Austria Sch	21.00	19.34	Netherlands Gld	3.36	3.08	Sweden Kr	11.88
Belgium Fr	81.86	80.82	New Zealand \$	2.46	2.45	Switzerland Fr	2.28
Canada \$	2.33	2.19	Norway Kr	11.80	11.05	Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Cyprus Cyp	0.88	0.81	Portugal Esc	302.00	280.00	Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Denmark Dk	11.41	10.35	S Africa Rand	12.98	12.98	Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Finland Mk	9.08	8.35	Spain Ptas	201.20	202.30	Switzerland Sfr	2.28
France Fr	10.03	9.25	Sweden Kr	11.88	11.88	Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Germany Dm	9.01	8.27	Switzerland Sfr	2.28	2.28	Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Greece Dr	175	168	Turkey Lira	291.00	271.00	Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Hong Kong \$	93.31	12.11	USA \$	1.70	1.77	Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Iceland Iskr	478	498				Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Ireland P	1.16	1.07				Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Israel Sh	5.88	5.31				Switzerland Sfr	2.28
Italy Lira	2583	2788				Switzerland Sfr	2.28
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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS
also appears
on page 32

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COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

For years GEC and British Aerospace have danced warily around each other. The commercial logic in favour of the pair joining forces is inescapable, but establishing terms that would suit both sides has so far proved impossible.

Lord Weinstock, as ever, was determined to win himself a bargain, but in Sir Richard Evans he met a worthy match. The result was stalemate.

But now may be the time to reopen negotiations. Yesterday's call from George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, for the defence industry to consolidate was interpreted in some quarters as a clear signal that there would be no regulatory barriers put up against the merger.

Mr Robertson's starting point was the need for European defence companies to combine against the might of the giants that have been created in the United States. When Boeing and McDonnell Douglas get together, French, Italian or British businesses have every reason to quake. In the defence business, small — a relative term — and vulnerable does not win sympathy, let alone business.

So Mr Robertson advocates that European firms should work together, as on the Airbus project. But while this must be the way forward, a useful first step might be to strengthen the British players with the rationalisation that the Defence Secretary seeks. There are three British

companies making armoured cars: GKN, Alvis and Vickers. They might stand a better chance of beating the enemy if they could fight together.

Similarly, putting together GEC and British Aerospace would create a British defence force that could not be ignored. The personality clash that has marred discussions before has been removed. Although Lord Weinstock is still to be found at GEC's headquarters, his presidential title is but honorary.

The soon-to-be Lord Simpson, his successor as managing director, would bring a different approach to negotiations. And if the sub-text to Mr Robertson's speech is being correctly interpreted, such negotiations would have Government blessing. This indicates that previous paranoia about the risks to Government of narrowing its choice of national defence contractors has given way to a sense of reality about the need to compete internationally.

And there is no harm in being heavyweights when dealing with our potential European partners. George Simpson has already experienced the difficulties of trying to work with a French defence industry in which the Government pulls the

strings. His suggestion that he might buy Thomson was swiftly rebuffed. Now thoughts of privatising that business appear to have been shelved. With awesome galleon pragmatism, political objections to privatisation have been overcome sufficiently to make the flotation of France Telecom a remarkable success. The proceeds of which may well be used to bolster Thomson while retaining it in public ownership.

They were just obeying orders

Dress rehearsals are designed to expose rough edges so that the show will be right on the night. So there need be no dismay just because the 3,000 traders who put the Stock Exchange's new electronic order-driven trading system through its paces on Saturday produced such bizarre

results. But this did make once-arcane questions so vivid that many will wonder whether the change is an advance in efficiency or just kowtowing to cultural imperialism.

On the day, action in the 100 top stocks led to trade being suspended in one or other of them 438 times when the price had moved 10 per cent or more. Having been dragged in to test the system, some were minded to test it to destruction. Even so, it will be a revelation to many investors that trading suspensions are intrinsic to the new system, albeit a rarity in "normal" times. More immediately worrying were vicious strategies adopted to catch the unwary. Leaving absurd orders in the system just in case someone makes a typing error and falls for your trap has convinced traders that the lunchtime bery will have to go the way of the City lunch. It must also be hoped that guaranteed bonuses do not encourage

EWZ traders to relax their attention. Lying as a snake in the grass to ambush the innocent is not cricket. This tactic, along with others to engineer suspensions artificially, makes it dangerous to put in buy or sell orders at "best price". The market might become even less friendly to small investors, whose orders are often packaged that way.

Such concerns are unlikely to dominate meetings between investment banks and the exchange to assess the tests. As with monetary union, there is by now an institutional drive to get things moving on October 20 and therefore not waste time on refinements. Much of the system worked pretty well in the simulation and similar systems operate from New York to Zurich.

The key lesson of practice is that order-driven trading should not be extended to the next 250 stocks without convincing proof that it is beneficial, and should not be used for the remaining

2,000 stocks at all. The less liquid the stock, the less the cost advantage of cutting out the wholesaler and the greater the danger that ordinary investors big or small will be made fools of. The sooner it is recognised that the London market must divide into one for big international stocks and another for smaller domestic ones the better.

Steps in the right direction

It is Bob Reid should grudge as he reads the latest news from C&J Clark. While Sir Bob is still struggling expensively to extricate Sears from the shoe business, Clarks is demonstrating that footwear does not need to be crippling.

New management in the shape of Roger Pedder and the former Treasury boffin, Tim Parker, have turned round the Somerset-based business and are sounding comfortably optimistic about its prospects. Little magic has been involved in the transformation, but the loss of 1,400 jobs has been crucial. For a family-owned business such as Clarks, taking the decision to axe workers on that sort of scale comes hard, and

doubly so when the family is steeped in Quaker tradition, although this did not prevent some nasty fighting among the various factions.

That infighting has subsided under the new management, encouraged perhaps by the appearance of profits and the real prospect of flotation.

The shareholders in another family-owned company must be watching Clarks improving fortunes carefully. It seems that the Littlewoods family has also agreed to stop its feuding and has rallied hopefully behind the new management. They, too, appear to have dropped any pretence being a paternalistic employer.

As the company dramatically scales down its retail business, selling some stores to Marks & Spencer and letting out chunks of others, hundreds of jobs will vanish. Dividends have triumphed over idealism.

By any measure

MAY I suggest "If it's there, measure it" as a new slogan for the Office for National Statistics. Or even "It might not be there but let's measure it anyway." There is something endearing about its attempt to put a value on our household chores and its frank admission that it has no idea what it is. There is lots of entertainment value on the way to its non-conclusion but, believe it or not, the ONS describes the exercise as inexpensive.

Incentive plan 'used to falsify QMH profit'

By Dominic Walsh

FORMER directors of Queens Moat Houses used an incentive management scheme to falsify profit figures and paint a positive picture of the company's worsening financial performance, the High Court was told yesterday.

The controversial scheme, under which some hotel managers paid an agreed annual fee to QMH head office and pocketed any additional profits, is at the centre of a case for unfair dismissal brought by John Baird, former chairman of QMH, and three other former directors.

The four men, all of whom were sacked after trading in the company's shares was suspended in April 1993, were accused yesterday of misleading the market to expect profits of between £80 million and £85 million when they knew this could not be achieved. The accounts produced after their departure showed losses of

£104 billion after a £922 million property writedown.

Michael Burton, QC, for QMH, said the problem with the incentive management scheme was that the annual fee paid by hotels was booked to group profits in the year the contract was signed, even though the money was normally paid in 13 monthly instalments the following year. This "front-loading" had led to the double-counting of profits from hotels transferring from the management to the incentive scheme.

"The mischief of that," Mr Burton said, "is that if you have a hotel which is the managed sector from January through to October, and then 12 months' worth of next year in the form of the incentive fee, you thus get yourself 20 months' profit in one year." He alleged that hotels were deliberately signed up to the scheme towards the year-end to bolster current-year profits.

Even when the recession had made it difficult for some managers to pay the annual fee the company had often persuaded them to renew their contracts so the fees could again be booked to profits.

He further claimed that to avoid profits being too heavily weighted towards the second half, interim results had been boosted by the addition of a proportion of the front-loaded fee the company expected later in the year, completely falsifying the profit figure for the year, Mr Burton added.

The case continues.



Rowland Gee, left, and Terry Donovan propose expanding the high street operation and possibly moving into mail order

Moss Bros plans further growth

By Sarah Cunningham

MOSS BROS, the menswear retail group, is planning to capitalise on strong sales and profits growth with further expansion of its high street chains and a possible move into the mail-order market.

In the six months to July 26 the group, which trades as the Suit Company, Cecil Gee, Savoy Tailors Guild and Blazer, and which also has outlets for Yves Saint Laurent and Hugo Boss men's clothing, reported pre-tax profit up 17 per cent to £5.79 million on a 7 per cent rise in same-store sales. The sales growth has continued into the second half.

In the first half the company opened nine shops and it will

open a further five in the second half. This will take the group's portfolio to 177 stores. Rowland Gee, managing director, said that the only thing holding back expansion was the rising level of rents for prime retail sites in the UK.

He said that the company, whose finance director is Terry Donovan, was also considering a move into mail order with an established operator.

The company has boosted its interim dividend from 1.3p to 2p, partly reflecting the improved earnings per share of 4.31p (3.67p). The dividend will be paid on November 11.

Tempus, page 28

Sinclair to launch health insurance

By Fraser Nelson

SINCLAIR, Montrose Healthcare, which is opening walk-in medical centres in railway stations and supermarkets, has joined forces with Norwich Union in preparation for a new health insurance market.

The company, which recently raised £6.5 million to fund its expansion, is considering offering policies with Norwich Union covering routine GP visits and vaccinations. The move, which was agreed before last week's reports that the Government is considering levying charges for routine appointments with GPs, will involve Tim Baker, from Norwich Union's healthcare arm, joining Sinclair as non-executive director. Norwich Union has, in return, invested £2 million in the company and is leaving open the prospect of further financial support

should Sinclair's idea of a nationwide private GP chain take off.

Kate Bleasdale, chief executive, said: "This is a strategic alliance which shows that we have a major financial company supporting our business."

Sinclair Montrose's two Medicentres, which operate in Victoria and Euston railway stations in London, generate 80 per cent of sales from GP consulting and the remainder from travel and flu vaccinations.

Norwich Union bought two million shares at 200p apiece during Sinclair Montrose's August fundraising. The shares, which trade on the Alternative Investment Market, gained 2p to 242p yesterday.

Tempus, page 28

National Power opts for gas

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

NATIONAL POWER is to build a £450 million gas-fired station that can produce enough electricity for two million people in a move that signals another blow for the coal industry.

Building the station at Staythorpe, Nottinghamshire, will provide about 1,000 jobs. Construction will start next

year. The combined cycle gas turbine power station will be built on the site of two former coal-fired stations. National Power said the plant would contribute to its drive to be the UK's lowest cost electricity generator while continuing to produce cleaner power.

The Department of Trade and Industry currently has

more than 20 applications for gas-fired stations and the coal industry fears the "dash for gas" will sound the death knell for UK coal. Generators have turned increasingly to gas as its price has fallen and environmental pressures have become greater.

Tempus, page 28

Kingsbury receives approach

By Sarah Cunningham

KINGSBURY, the quoted furniture retailer, yesterday said that it has received an approach that may lead to a bid at close to the current share price.

The company, trading as Kingsbury Interiors, Wades and Harrison Gibson, has 76 branches in the UK and it also has three stores on the Continent. Analysts said that a bidder was likely to be a big unquoted furniture retailer looking to back into the stock market, or a quoted one such as Essex Furniture, H&C Furniture, Uno or Rosebys. DFS is thought unlikely to be attracted by Kingsbury's small stores.

Kingsbury's shares fell 8p to 165p yesterday, valuing it at about £43 million.

Restaurants group finds right ingredients for expansion

Chez Gérard spread on menu

By Dominic Walsh

GROUPE Chez Gérard, the restaurant group, is to open at least nine restaurants over the next three years.

Neville Abraham, chairman and chief executive, said the main focus for expansion would be the group's Livebait fish restaurants and the successful Chez Gérard formula. However, he did not rule out further "signature" or individual restaurants along the lines of Scotts or the St Quentin restaurants acquired in May. The fifth, Chez Gérard

opened recently at Bishopsgate, in the City of London, and Mr Abraham envisages reaching double figures within three years, at a total cost of at least £4 million.

A further £3 million will be used to expand the Livebait concept, acquired in February, and the group's established Café Fish formula, to be renamed Livebait's Café Fish. The second Livebait, along the lines of the original restaurant at Waterloo, will open in Covent Garden, probably before Christmas.

Mr Abraham said the group

would continue to seek sites exclusively in London, though eventually expansion throughout the UK and even the Continent was likely.

Yesterday Groupe Chez Gérard unveiled a 6.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.04 million in the year to June 29, on turnover up 17 per cent to £192 million. In the second half of the year sales growth excluding acquisitions was up 20 per cent (12.5 per cent). Earnings rose to 12.4p (10.8p), and a final dividend of 2.2p will be paid on December 9, making a 3.2p (2.8p) total.



Abraham: seeking sites



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Advertisers look beyond sex, booze and football

Sex, booze and football. For the past two decades advertisers have relied on these magic ingredients to sell products to young men. But they no longer reflect men's role in society. The rise in female power and women's increasing financial independence have destroyed many of the old stereotypes. Young women don't just want to be impressed by their boyfriend's car — they want to buy their own.

As men struggle to find a new role, marketers are asking whether their advertising hits the spot with the 18 to 25-year-olds. It is not a market they can afford to miss because young men have high disposable incomes compared with husbands and fathers, and

are more receptive to marketing messages than someone older and more confident.

The changing face of young men will be examined today at a one-day conference, *Men Behaviour*. Differently, organised by *Marketing magazine*.

As men adjust to the rise in female power, advertisers are struggling to find a winning formula to replace sex, booze and football. So far their attempts have not been impressive. A popular current campaign is the portrayal of men having to choose between a product and a woman. The product wins every time.

McDonald's, KFC and Walkers Crisps are just a few of the advertisers to choose this route.

Trevor Beattie, creative director of GGT, the advertising agency, says that the approach is overused and totally unrealistic. "There's one ad claiming that men would rather have a chicken drumstick than a sauna with Ulrika Jonsson. Can we please have advertising that portrays the way the world is: men and women get on together."

It is a view backed by Rita Clifton, vice-chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, another speaker at today's conference. "In a world where men feel insecure, it is easy to understand why advertisers want to hark back to what men used to feel secure about. The idea of men getting their own back on women seems rather pathetic."



shows that men are more likely to respond to advertisements such as Peugeot's "Search for the Hero" television commercial, which shows men in varying roles, from the hero who saves the child from

a car accident to the husband who faints when his wife gives birth.

So what can companies do when their whole marketing ethos has been based around lad culture? Beer marketers have been hit hard as a mild bit of sexism went down quite well in the past. One particular TV commercial for Castlemain XXXX was a classic case. Two Australian men load up their truck with cans of lager and add a couple of bottles of sherry for the Sheila's, but discard them when the truck becomes overloaded. In a world where young women match men pint for pint this is neither funny nor relevant.

Neither can beer advertisers appeal to the "sod women, the boys are going down the pub"

ethos because men are under increasing pressure to look good if they are going to attract a woman.

"Quite simply, it's not good enough to have a beer gut," said Rachel Walker of the agency Duckworth, Finn, Grubb, Waters.

As well as trying to capture the right image for young men, companies also have to be aware of how much men's media has changed. In the past two years sales of men's magazines have exploded. About four million men read them and they are generally well-educated, well-off, watch little television and want to be told what to do. "All men's magazines share a single objective — to tell their audience what to think and do and sell it as individuality."

said Damian Blackden of Zenith Media.

There is still one ingredient that sells these magazines: sex. While sales of beer to young men decline and football becomes more family-oriented, sex is the one marketing approach that remains from the old era. But the use of sex has changed. These days it tends to be warmer, funnier and treats women as equals.

Saatchi & Saatchi's research shows that women are embracing their many different roles whereas men are anxious about the transition. But they will eventually come to terms with the changes. And companies that recognise these new men are far more likely to succeed.

Big guns in Europe's defence industries told to adapt or die

Michael Evans
on a mission
to compete
in the face of
US military
supremacy

Consolidate or die. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has now added his voice to the familiar Cassandra-like warnings given in recent years to the British and European defence industries that unless they rationalise, merge and consolidate they will find it impossible to compete in the international market against the leviathan corporations in the United States.

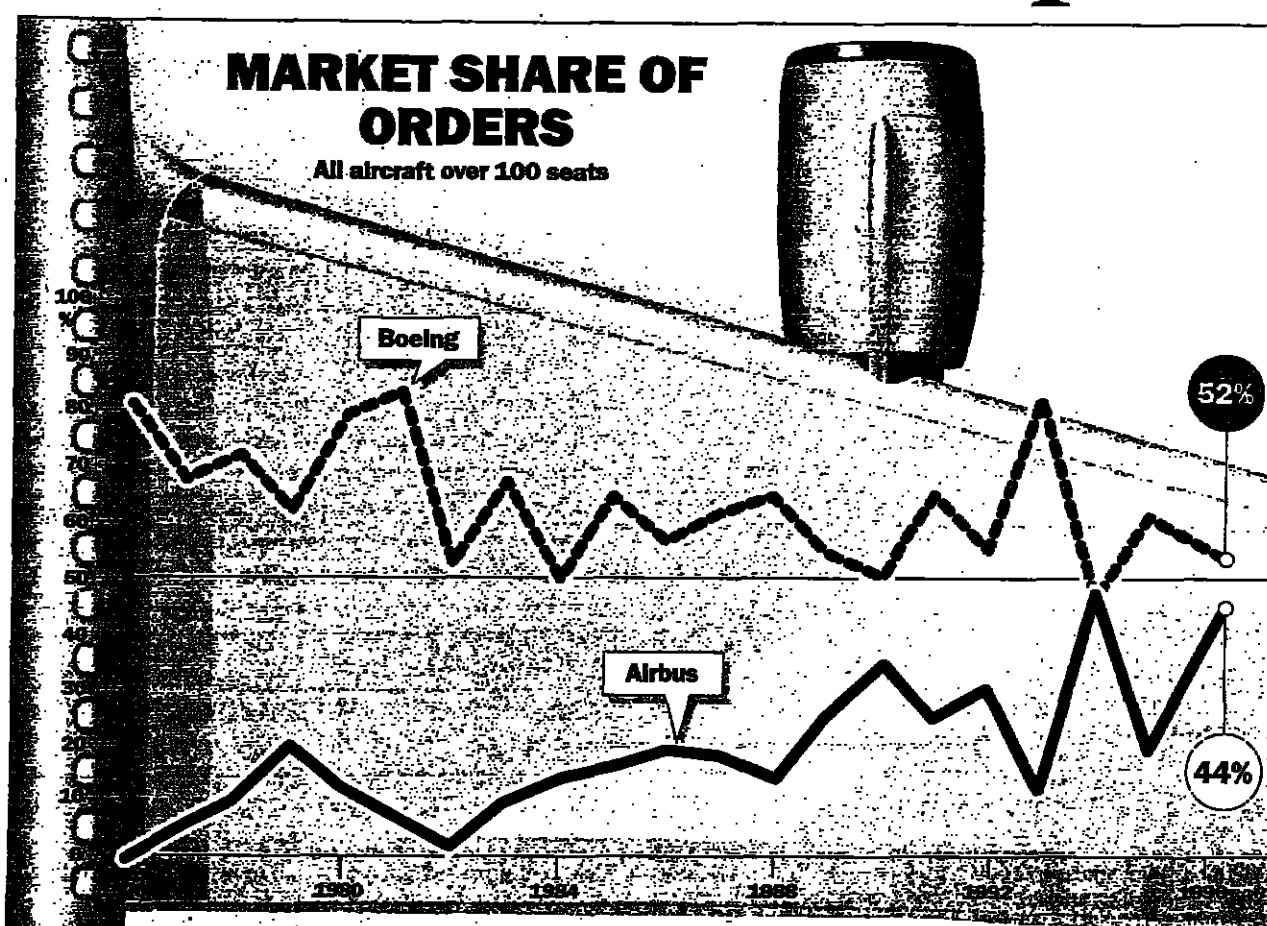
Since the defence industry in Britain is fully aware of the urgent need to take on the US giants in order to survive in the increasingly competitive export market, Mr Robertson's warning at a seminar in London organised by the Defence Industries Council, will not go unheeded.

The big guns in the British defence industry, such as Sir Richard Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, John Weston, joint managing director of BAE, and George Simpson, the new managing director of General Electric Company, have been advocating radical restructuring.

Sir Richard wants to forge mergers across Europe and, in the long term, he predicts the development of global defence companies. He sees it as his job to ensure that British Aerospace is still a big enough player to survive the changes that will inevitably come in the next 20 to 30 years.

The problem for the largest European defence companies is that the US has beaten them to it. The American giants moved so rapidly to forge seemingly unbeatable alliances that European partnership efforts have looked weak by comparison.

The result is that three or four American defence companies are now able to offer to the domestic and export market a complete range of military equipment, and with overheads and manning levels



cut back drastically, their products will be on sale at highly competitive prices.

Mr Robertson offered Government help to facilitate a similar restructuring throughout the European defence industry, but the main thrust for change will have to come from the defence companies themselves if they are going to compete with the Americans.

Airbus Industrie is often put forward as a prime example of how the major European aerospace companies have developed a successful partnership to take on the Americans in the civilian airline business. In 25 years, Airbus has "gone from nothing" to 44 per cent of the world sales of aircraft with more than 100 seats.

Yet even Airbus has been slow to adapt to the viciously competitive market by delaying internal restructuring that would produce a more streamlined and efficient organisation.

Airbus has been a partnership of British Aerospace, Dasa, Aerospatiale and Casa. It was only comparatively recently that agreement was reached to turn Airbus into a single company managing the

total assets. This will be achieved by 1999 and the intention is to increase the share of the market. "We've got to get to 50 per cent or die," one aerospace source said.

The £40 billion Eurofighter combat aircraft programme is another example where European collaboration has worked successfully but at a price. Again, four companies from four countries are involved, with each having a share of the work.

Inevitably, that involves duplication of effort, separate production lines in each country and all the political problems that arise from a marriage of industrial convenience where each partner has different domestic requirements and sensitivities.

There is little that the Government can do to force through rapid changes, other than to facilitate international agreements that can allow mergers or joint ventures. There was nothing in Mr Robertson's speech yesterday to indicate any secret desire on the part of the Labour Government to see a merger of Britain's two giant defence

companies, BAE and GEC. The two companies still talk almost daily of a possible merger but there is no sign of a breakthrough, except that Mr Simpson and Sir Richard look more compatible bedfellows than the BAE chief executive and Lord Weinstock, GEC's previous boss.

However, the warning from Mr Robertson is timely. For the Government's strategic defence review, which will not be finished until early in the new year, is intended not only to construct an appropriate foreign and defence policy for the next 15 years but also to establish a framework within which industry will find it easier to rationalise.

At present the US market is twice that of Europe's and yet Europe has twice the number of contractors. Effectively that means there is less for everybody to share. In a political era when defence budgets are more likely to drop than rise, there can no longer be any argument about the need for a radical restructuring of the

industry both in this country and throughout Europe. How much longer, for example, can Britain sustain three separate armoured vehicle companies — GKN, Alvis and Vickers?

One of the major obstacles to European mergers on a grand scale is France, which still hangs on desperately to its largely state-run and over-manned defence industry. The potentially fruitful merger of GEC and Thomson-CSF, the French electronics company, was blocked by the previous government and the Socialist administration of Lionel Jospin has also baulked at privatising Thomson and approving a marriage with GEC.

Yet the best way forward for Europe would be to forge multi-company mergers. A highly competitive grouping, for example, might include BAE with Dasa, Aerospatiale, Casa of Spain, Alenia of Italy and Saab of Sweden.

Once heavyweight European corporations have been formed, the onus would be on European Governments to award major contracts to these new companies to ensure their survival against their Ameri-



Simpson: pro-restructuring



Evans: favours mergers

BUSINESS LETTERS

The wisdom of university funding

From Mr Brian Whittingham Sir, Graham Searjeant (Business News, October 2) adds his wisdom to the debate about the Labour Government's intention to make university education less freely available by the introduction of fees and the abolition of maintenance grants.

Historically, those intelligent and diligent enough to obtain a graduate degree (as also reported in your columns), those intending to emigrate rather than contribute to the national economy, could very possibly do so without first reimbursing what they may regard as an unfair tax.

Maybe future clergy will be unable to study Divinity on campus.

Without maintenance grants, students may have to opt for an alma mater within commuting distance from home, thereby losing much of the benefit of extra-curricular activities and free exchange of ideas with other intelligent young people.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN WHITTINGHAM, Green Gables, Wicken Road, Clavering, Essex.

New buses are typical of increased investment

From the Director-General, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK

Sir, The order for a hundred new low-floor double-deck buses will be welcomed by Londoners — but they are by no means the first new double-deckers in the privatised fleet as your correspondent claims ("Trinity wins £12 million bus order", October 2).

In the last year alone, over 300 have been placed in ser-

vice around the capital. A typical example of the increased investment in new, high-quality vehicles that commercialisation of the industry has brought about. Yours faithfully, VERONICA PALMER, Director-General, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, Imperial House, 15-19 Kingsway, WC2.

Letters that are intended for publication in the Business and Finance section of *The Times* should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

I THINK I MAY HAVE BEEN SACKED.

ambiguous n. 1 person who writes the wrong word equally well with the right and left hands 2 words in a contract which have an obscure or double meaning.

constructive dismissal v. 1 a mass firing of modern architects (after monstrous carbuncle) 2 indirect dismissal.

compensation n. 1 that pleasurable feeling when the cheque arrives in the post 2 payment made by someone to cover the cost of damage or hardship which has been caused.

mediation n. 1 gathering of camera crews outside celebrity's home (after minor indiscretion) 2 attempt by a third party to make the two sides in an argument agree.

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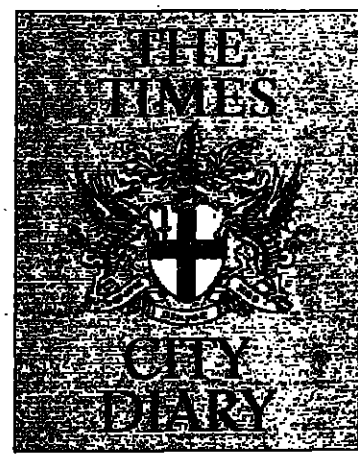
IN A couple of weeks the agony of waiting will be over. Howard Davies will announce the name of the new City regulator, and a nation's hearts can start to beat again. Farewell super-SIB, which is what we have all been calling it, and goodbye NewRo, the name the various regulators being shoe-horned into the new body have been trying to make us use. But I hear the name has been chosen, and the front-runner is... the FINANCIAL REGULATORY GROUP!



"With all the train delays, he was finding it difficult to get to work on time"

Oh, yes, that was my first reaction. One of the big City lawyers had a competition to name it, and they came up with some pretty dull attempts, but the regulators will have surpassed even these if they go for this one. The Financial Regulatory Group. Because it is a group of financial regulators, you see. One can think of no other logical explanation. The Financial Regulatory Group. Thud. The FRG. It is not too late to change your mind, Mr Davies. Call it Nimrod, fearless hunter of financial miscreants. Call it Hercules, achiever of the impossible, cleanser of the Augean stables of City impropriety. Let your imagination soar, Mr Davies. Your current best choice is FRG-ing awful.

• NICE to know they are keeping their spirits up at BZW. Yesterday was the start of the roadshows to sell Telecom Italia, the biggest-ever privatisation outside Japan, and worth £15 billion. BZW is the global co-ordinator and decided to make it a "thematic day" at Canary Wharf. As opposed to Friday, which was a traumatic day, I suppose. The menu in the staff canteen was adjusted accordingly — "we've got pasta coming out of our ears," said Charles Kirwan-Taylor, who heads the Telecom Italia team. There were plenty of Italian flags flying. There was a gondola



on the trading floor dishing out ice cream. How on earth did they get one of those onto the trading floor? "It isn't a full-sized gondola," says Kirwan-Taylor, pigtily.

Bitter blow

THE blessed backlash against those hideous alopcs, which has prompted warnings from Merrydown and Bass that the under-fives are going off the stuff, has claimed another victim. "Due to the enormous amount of bad publicity surrounding the Split Drink Company (funny, I had never heard of it either), and the products it manufactured", directors have had to call in the receiver. Seven people have lost their jobs.

The letter comes from someone

called John Philpott at 21st Century Drinks. Split Drink had the UK rights for "Jammin' (the Alcoholic Caribbean Crush)" — the company's own illiterate spelling, please note. Call Split Drink and a cagey woman answers the phone: "21st Century Drinks". Are you the same as Split Drink, then? "Indirectly." And Mr Philpott, who was managing director of Split and who also runs 21st Century? "He's in meetings all day." But help is at hand for those hooked on Jammin'. Distribution rights have been passed to — yes, 21st Century Drinks. Meanwhile creditors of his other company are invited to a meeting next week. Bring your own bottle.

Dark clouds

A STORM front has blown up between the Met Office and Piers Corbyn, who I understand is a freelance weather forecaster as well as brother of the MP Jeremy Corbyn. He is floating his Weather Action on AIM to raise £1 million. The date was to have been October 15, tenth anniversary of the Great Storm, but they seem to have missed it. *The Times*

Higher Education Supplement, no less, ran a piece praising Corbyn's skills as better than the Met Office's. This has attracted a letter from the Met experts, who reckon that it is impossible to forecast almost a year in advance, as Corbyn's company claims to do.

His response is to point to the £10,000 a year he bets at William Hill, based on his own forecasts, with a success rate of 60 per cent. To calculate the odds the bookmaker uses Met Office data. Corbyn's argument is only slightly weakened by his forecast for September: stormy and wet.

MARTIN WALLER



Piers Corbyn bets £10,000 a year on his own weather forecasts at William Hill

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LAW

● DIVORCE TRUMPS 35
● MANDARIN HUNT 35

Chris Barton attempts to unravel the tangle of competing claims for family rights



Lisa Grant, right, celebrates with Jill Percy after winning a European Court ruling that her partner was entitled to travel concessions from her employer

Gays, fathers and equality

The European Court of Justice last week gave a preliminary ruling that same-sex couples are entitled to the same job perks as unmarried heterosexual partners.

Lisa Grant, a 30-year-old railway clerk, brought the case after her employer, South West Trains, refused to give her partner, Jill Percy, the same free travel concessions granted to other workers' husbands, wives or "common-law opposite-sex spouses". But in an opinion which could benefit 25 million people across Europe, the Advocate-General of the court declared it was a breach of EU law for an employer to deny equal rights to lesbians.

Later the same day, the Prime Minister told the Labour Party conference that his concern for the modern family was "not about preaching to individuals about their private lives". Are some of our presently "illegal" families about to achieve official approval?

Ten years ago the Law Commission was canvassing for automatic recognition of unmarried fathers, while same-sex marriage was unheard of; today, the former has become politically unfashionable while the latter is said to have the support of the Conservative Leader of the Opposition. In the meantime, surrogate, assisted and lesbian parenthood, and cohabitant adoption, have all found a place on the agenda.

Ironically, traditional family law is mainly concerned

with the ending of relationships, while the new groupings ask only the right to create, or to maintain, the family structure of their choice. Similarly, the number in these "would-be" households is unlikely to match the half-million or so unfortunate divorcees, parents' divorces, care proceedings etc. bringing them annually before the "family" courts.

Increasing numbers of heterosexuals expect to enjoy the advantages of marriage despite their rejection of wedlock — yet wedlock is not a choice available to homosexuals.

This discrimination against gays was at the heart of the recent Luxembourg decision, although the Advocate-General seemed to indicate that the company involved could, with impunity, under European law, have restricted its concessions to married partners only.

It may help to know that even in the growing number of countries where gays can achieve marriage-like status, it is commonplace, as in Denmark and Sweden, to exclude the capacity to adopt. Few cultures may be ready to place surplus babies with same-sex couples when the opportunity exists to supply such children with both a mother and father.

That aside, the arguments for gay marriage are beginning to appeal to most. In America, Congressman Gerry

Studds calls the ban the final bulwark to civil rights in this area since slaves and mixed-race couples obtained the right to marry. Many of the same reasons for encouraging marriage between men and women also apply to gays — fidelity (particularly in the Aids era), duty of mutual support, and one claim for income support per couple.

Few cultures may yet be prepared to place surplus babies with same-sex couples'

(gay couples are not currently treated as "living together" by the social services).

Cohabiting couples, of whatever gender, are not allowed to make joint adoption applications — these have remained the preserve of marrieds from the original 1926 legislation to the current Adoption Act. And there may be good reasons: recent research shows that such partnerships are four or more times more likely to break up than are marriages. When cohabitants do part, they cannot invoke the divorce court's power of financial relief. Perhaps adoption should therefore remain unavailable even where the child is born to one of the unmarried partners.

Unmarried fathers and their children — whose num-

bers increase by some 200,000 each year — together represent the supreme example of an existing but legally unrecognised relationship. Until recently these men, were seen as evaders of financial responsibility, a disgrace largely ended by the Family Law Reform Act 1987 and the Child Support Acts 1991-95. But this "equality" with married fathers was not extended to an automatic recognition of their positive paternal role, now sought by "new" men. Only Parliament can oblige them, and perhaps because of the strife suffered by recent governments over the implementation of the Child Support Act 1991, or even the promulgation of the Family Law Act 1996, of recent reforms, the issue did not feature in any pre-election manifestos.

Yet the arguments are strong. Only the father and the child — never the mother — are punished for a parental rejection of marriage; a social two-parent family is being treated as a one-parent family in law; the mother's death (or departure) leaves the child with a father who lacks parental responsibility; and it is fundamental that married fathers retain parental status even on desertion and/or divorce.

The distinction — between the recognition of existing relationships and the making or taking of children to create a brand new family — is

particularly relevant to the gay parenthood debate. Middle-Englanders, fairer-minded than they are often given credit for, might not accept the placing of adoptive children with a gay couple when mixed-sex couples are queuing up to house the youngsters in question. Furthermore, some Middle-Englanders might not want to pay for the impregnation of one, or both, of a lesbian pair. But taking away a child from a same-sex couple — to join the adoption pool or to go into local authority care — for no reason other than the adults' sexuality, is surely another matter. This may be particularly true if the youngster is the natural issue of one of them and the other parent is neither innately more suited to, or desirous of, housing "his" offspring.

What judges do out of court may make

Those who moon feel gravity's force

Last month the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, dismissed Josie Lewis as a magistrate because she had "failed to uphold the dignity, standing and good reputation of the magistracy". Miss Lewis was not accused of falling asleep on the Swindon bench, causing some gross injustice, or displaying any of the other courtroom vices that can afflict even the best of judges. Her injudicious conduct was more fundamental: she had exposed her backside during an argument with a stable owner.

In April, Miss Lewis wished to remove some property from the stables in Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, owned by Brian Woodfield. They disagreed about her right to do so. To obtain evidence, Mr Woodfield began to take photographs. Miss Lewis dropped her breeches and mooned at him. Mr Woodfield's camera does not lie, and he obtained photographs of the bare truth. Instead of turning the other cheek, Mr Woodfield sent the snaps to the Lord Chancellor with a letter of complaint. After looking at the matter from all angles, the Lord Chancellor's Department has now decided to dismiss Miss Lewis from the bench.

Judges and magistrates occasionally misbehave in ways that demonstrate their manifest unsuitability to pass judgment on others. An extreme example is the case of David Lanier, a judge from Tennessee. In March, the US Supreme Court upheld his conviction, and a 25-year jail sentence, for sexual assaults committed from 1989 to 1991 in his judicial chambers on a number of women, including two of his secretaries, and a mother fighting a custody battle for her child. The jury had rejected his defence that he was a "hugging-type" person. Judge Lanier is now the subject of a nationwide hunt across the US.

Other recent American cases recognise that sanctions may have to be imposed on judges for misconduct in court. Last year the Supreme Court of Michigan suspended a judge for three days without pay because he "instigated a confrontational exchange" with counsel in court, "made caustic comments in an abusive tone" and showed "a total lack of self-control and an antagonistic mindset predisposed to unfavourable disposition" of the hearing.

Other examples of courtroom misconduct may fall on the other side of the line. The Court of Judicial Discipline of Pennsylvania decided, in 1996, that a district judge should not suffer disciplinary sanctions for being late in returning from lunch on isolated occasions.

professional sanctions inevitable. In 1995, the Court of Appeals of New York removed a civil court judge from office because she had given advice at home to a drug dealer on how to launder the proceeds of his trade, and had looked after his money, for which she accepted \$1,500.

Also in 1995, the Supreme Court of Florida issued a reprimand to a judge who had responded to the receipt of a parking ticket by warning the police officer responsible that "I'll be on the bench for four more years and you'll have to deal with me every time you come to court with a case".

After the dismissal of Miss Lewis as a magistrate, Mr Woodfield expressed his delight. "It's not fitting," he said, "for someone who can send people to jail to act in such a manner." What standards should be imposed on magistrates is a perennial topic of debate. In his 1979 study, *The Changing Image of the Magistracy*, Sir Thomas Skyrme (who had responsibility for magistrates from within the Lord Chancellor's Department) noted that until the 1960s, a justice who was cited as a co-respondent in divorce proceedings normally had to resign. The same requirement was imposed on three women magistrates in the 1970s whose husbands were convicted of offences relating to the Poulson corruption affair in the North East.

The bottom line is that, at worst, Miss Lewis was silly and rude on an isolated occasion, and she exposed herself to criticism by her inability to express her feelings in a more articulate manner. But she caused no injury to Mr Woodfield (other than, perhaps, to his sense of self-importance). The police took no action. If the magistracy is to consist only of people who have never acted in a manner which, on sober reflection, they would regret, the ranks of JPs will be thinned down to a few Mother Terrasses. Do we really want cases to be determined by a bench stripped of anyone who does not conform to the highest standards of propriety?

The Lord Chancellor's Department has taken a bum point. No action was needed against Miss Lewis, except to warn her against further mooning (if only because of the risk to her health on a windy day). The department should have returned Mr Woodfield's photographs, with thanks, with the suggestion that he may wish, in the words of Tommy Steele in *Half a Sixpence*, to stick them in his family album.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Unlikely supporter

DAME Shirley Porter appears to have enlisted an unlikely ally — Private Eye — in her fight against the District Auditor John Magill's decision to surcharge her and five other former Westminster councillors and officials £31,677,044.

A campaign leaflet issued by the Westminster Supporters' Group on the eve of the High Court appeal, which began last week, repeated Private Eye's revelation that Sir David Keene, one of the judges due to hear the appeal, was the friend of Tony Blair who lent the Prime Minister his 12th-century French chateau over the summer.

Writ-ten off

JOURNALISTS are the latest group to be hit by escalating court fees. The Queen's Bench Division of the High Court has ended its policy of allowing them to travel through boxes of writs for £20 an hour in search of a good story and will instead charge £5 to allow them to see each writ. One

freelance, Sarah Limbrick, told Press Gazette, the trade magazine for journalists: "There is no way you could look at 37,000 writs a year multiplied by £5."

Under and up
SIMMONS & Simmons finally tasted glory last weekend



Section of Angel

Still painting — aged 99

COLLYER-BRISTOW is staging an exhibition by the painter Hans Feibusch, who, at 99, is still creating. The exhibition opens at the law firm's Bedford Row gallery next Tuesday and runs until November 13. Feibusch has worked in England since he fled here in 1933. But only since he saw Shoah, the 1995 film about the Holocaust, has he made paintings about it.

● Stephen Baker & Co has installed an interactive Internet system so clients can instruct a solicitor via the Manchester law firm's Web page. In Liverpool Exchange Chambers claims to be the first in the city to have launched its own Web site.

Old boys' club

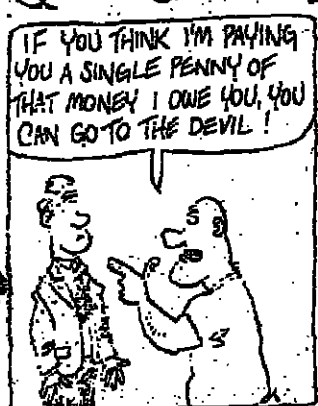
PHILLIP Sycamore, the President of the Law Society, is chipping in to help his old school, Lancaster Royal Grammar, in its millennium development appeal. The school, one of the top ten state schools, is seeking to raise £3 million for three projects: a science centre, a business and information centre and a sports and community centre. "It is an excellent school, which takes people strictly on merit but from all backgrounds," he says.

● The new undergraduate business game, Boardroom Blitz, is being run by Berwin Leighton, not S.J. Berwin (Law, September 30). It is supported by The Lawyer magazine.

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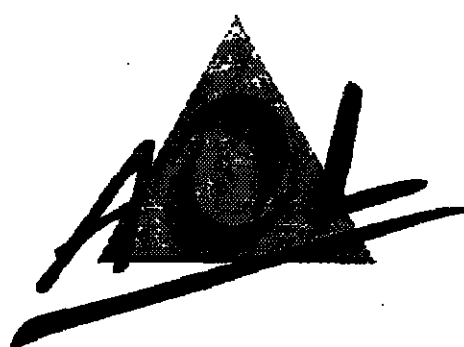
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ENGLISH HERITAGE

Love can never be unconditional for a multimillionaire, says James Zirin

Playing the trump card in divorce

When Donald and Ivana Trump announced their celebrated break-up in 1990, a financial journalist wrote: "The 1980s ended when Drexel filed for bankruptcy, and the Trumps filed for divorce." The circle is virtually complete with the 1990s all but ended: Drexel's head, Michael Milken, who served two years in prison for securities fraud, is all but rehabilitated, and the Trumps are all but divorced — the Maria Maples Trumps, that is.

Mr Trump achieved recognition in the 1980s as a brash master builder with a Midas touch who appeared to lead a charmed life surrounded by money, glitz and a beautiful blonde wife. By 1990, his fortunes had taken a turn for the worse. The bottom fell out of the property market, there were adverse changes in the tax laws and he was said to be \$8.5 million in debt.

Ivana, on the other hand, was portrayed as the big winner. She published a roman à clef entitled *For Love Alone*, a spicy story of a beautiful model who marries a tycoon only to lose him to another woman. She also received \$25 million from her husband under their prenuptial agreement. Mr Trump says he is a "great prenup believer". "You have to have them," he told the TV interviewer Larry King recently, "even though they are nasty documents."

American courts will generally enforce prenuptial agreements in the absence of fraud, duress or overreaching. Basically, they allow those embarking on matrimony to divide property and provide for their respective rights and obligations in the event of divorce.

While prenups may dull romance, they are strongly recom-

mended by matrimonial lawyers if there is any significant property involved.

Mr Trump did not like Ivana's book. He claimed it breached a clause in their postnuptial agreement that "without obtaining (the husband's) written consent in advance, (the wife) shall not directly or indirectly publish, or cause to be published, any diary, memoir, letter, story, photograph, interview, article, essay, account or description or depiction of any kind whatsoever, whether fictionalised or not, concerning her marriage to (the husband) or any other aspect of (the husband's) personal, business or financial affairs, or assist or provide information to others in connection with the publication or dissemination of any such material or excerpts thereof." (My italics). An appellate court in New York upheld the validity of this gag clause, and Mr Trump's lawyers said he wanted his money back, or at least a lien on the book proceeds. The matter was eventually settled out of court.

In the 1990s Mr Trump's fortunes revived as he restructured his businesses and his personal life. The New York City property market heated up, and Mr Trump sold his apartment buildings like hot cakes for up to \$1,000 (about £64) a square foot.

Post-divorce, he entered into the mandatory prenup and eventually married another blonde, the actress Maria Maples, already the mother of his child. Maria also succeeded Ivana as hostess of the Trump-sponsored Miss Universe pageant — but time was running out for her.

A clause in the prenup provided that on divorce she would get a paltry \$25 million, subject to escalation after a certain number of years of marriage. To avoid the



Before the split: Trump weds his second wife Maria Maples in 1993

escalator, Mr Trump had to give timely notice of intention to divorce. He did, and Maria was history. More restructuring at the Trump Palace.

Olivia Goldsmith, author of *The First Wives Club*, bewails the "disastrous changes in divorce laws over the last two decades [that] have not only failed to protect many wives financially but also given them no emotional succour". Mrs Goldsmith, however, was not addressing prenups where, by agreement, spousal services are valued and capped in fierce bargaining sessions held in lawyers' offices.

Maria has hired Ivana's divorce lawyer to try to invalidate the prenup, and Mr Trump has promised to play "hardball". But if she tries to upset the deal, his settlement with Maria promises to be another Trump coup.

As a result of his profitable Atlantic City interests and a booming economy, Mr Trump in the

1990s was sitting with a pile of cash, substantially from fees he receives for managing hotel and casino properties. His debt load had been greatly reduced — largely by selling properties to public companies he controls. Forbes estimated his net worth at \$1.4 billion, although Mr Trump disputes the figure. "The real number," he says, "is \$3.7 billion." And he had reduced his cost of divorce tenfold from \$25 million to \$2.5 million.

Mr Trump believes he has been married to "two wonderful women". He blames his marriage failures on his devotion to his business. "It is unfair being married to Donald Trump," he says, "since business comes first." He is bringing out a new book, *The Art of the Comeback*. Meanwhile, he is not without a successor in the world of promotion. His daughter, Ivanka, 15 and already embarked on a promising modelling career, is co-hosting another of his beauty pageants, Miss Teen USA.

● The author is a partner with the New York law firm, Brown & Wood.

Wanted: mandarin for the new millennium

Valerie Elliott reports on the Lord Chancellor's search for a top legal adviser



Sir Thomas: due to retire



Dame Barbara: candidate?

A change in the law to widen the field of candidates who could become the next senior civil servant at the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) is being planned by the Government.

The problem is that, unlike other senior appointments in Whitehall, the qualifications for the job are laid down in statute. He must either be a lawyer of ten years' standing — a barrister or solicitor — or must have served as an official in the department for five years.

Ministers are concerned that the rules are too rigid and that a number of Whitehall high-flyers are not eligible for the post.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the Lord Chancellor, is understood to have told colleagues he wants to ensure that he has the best candidate for the post and therefore needs the widest choice. He apparently believes the present law is "too restrictive".

The decision is all the more important because Lord Irvine is one of Tony Blair's key lieutenants and is charged with a heavy Cabinet committee workload.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the former Lord Chancellor, recognised that the growth of the department might require a more experienced Whitehall administrator and attempted to reform the qualifications for the post in the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. For the first time a non-lawyer would be eligible for any vacancy, but he or she would have had to work in the department for five years.

Another reason for the change in the law is that there are very few lawyers at Permanent Secretary level in Whitehall these days. Ministers also believe that experienced and well-qualified lawyers in private practice would have no incentive to give up a lucrative career for the salary of a Permanent Secretary, which can vary from £90,000 up to £154,000 a year.

The man regarded as the heir-apparent to Sir Thomas Legg, QC, is Michael Huebner, currently chief executive of the Court Service Agency.

But another contender could be Ian Burns, the head of policy at the LCD, although at 58 he may be thought too old. Another name being floated is that of Dame

acts as a conduit between ministers and senior judges, and must recommend names for top appointments to the judiciary.

It is also an unusual post because, unlike other mandarins who have to retire at 60, the chief adviser to the Lord Chancellor can stay on until he is 62. If the Lord Chancellor requests it, the official can also stay on until his or her 65th birthday.

The retirement of Sir Thomas has not been officially announced, but it is believed that he has agreed to stay until next year to hand over the work to his replacement.

A senior Whitehall source says: "Ministers want the widest possible choice to find someone who can modernise the department and carry it into the next millennium."

Remember, too, that Lord Irvine's remit is much wider than that of previous Lord Chancellors. He has a heavy workload chairing Cabinet committees and must be more politically astute to the ways of Whitehall. He needs more than an effective judicial secretary.

The post of Lord Chancellor's Permanent Secretary was created in 1885 at a time when his office consisted of just five officials and was based in the House of Lords. Today there are some 11,500 staff working in the department or in agencies, such as the Court Service, reporting to ministers.

The special position at the LCD has been raised with ministers and senior officials who have been discussing the line-up of senior mandarins to lead Whitehall into the next century.

A spate of vacancies at Permanent Secretary level is providing a unique opportunity for Mr Blair to stamp his personal style on the government machine.

The priority is to select a new Permanent Secretary at the Home Office to replace Sir Richard Wilson, who takes over from Sir Robin Butler as Cabinet Secretary in January.

Senior officials on the Senior Appointments Selection Committee last week decided there should be the widest possible field for the Home Office post and have decided to delay recommending names for the Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Health.

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Wilberforce Chambers are pleased to announce that the following established practitioners will be joining Chambers:

Ian Croxford QC (with effect from January 1998)
Tom Lowe (with effect from 3 November 1997)
Joanna Smith (with effect from 1 December 1997)
all formerly of 2-3 Gray's Inn Square

Joanne Wicks (with effect from 6 October 1997)
formerly of 17 Old Buildings, Lincoln's Inn

These additions further strengthen Chambers' expertise in commercial and chancery litigation.

Chambers are also pleased to announce that Rupert Reed joined chambers on 1 October 1997 following completion of his pupillage.

For further information or a Chambers brochure, please call Louise Seaton.

Edward Nugee TD QC (1977)	1955
Jules Sher QC (1981)	1968
David Lowe QC (1984)	1965
Terence Ebertson QC (1990)	1974
John Martin QC (1991)	1972
Nicholas Warren QC (1993)	1972
Ian Croxford QC (1993)	1976
Robert Ham QC (1994)	1973
Brian Green QC (1997)	1980
Anthony Tausig	1966
Charles Turnbull	1975
Thomas Seymour	1978
Gabriel Hughes	1982
Michael Furness	1983
Christopher Nugee	1985
Michael Tennet	1985
Jonathan Scitler	1985
Thomas Lowe	1985
James Aylliffe	1987
Indira Royan	1990
Joanna Smith	1990
Joanne Wicks	1991
Paul Newman	1991
Gabriel Padipie	1991
Caroline Fozz	1992
Jonathan Evans	1994
Emily Campbell	1995
Rupert Reed	1996

Senior Clerk: Roy Beazley
Deputy Senior Clerk: Declan Redmond

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See Collins, Personnel Manager,
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Tel: 0131 226 2561

2 HARCOURT BUILDINGS

Temple, London, EC4V 9DB

Peter Boydell QC retired on 26 September, having led these Chambers with great distinction for thirty two years. The date of his retirement was the 60th anniversary of his entry into the legal profession as an articled clerk. Peter began practice at the Bar in the Spring of 1948. Chambers have unanimously asked Gerard Ryan QC to succeed him.

The members of Chambers are:

Gerald Ryan QC
Sheila Cameron QC
Robin Purcell QC
Richard Phillips QC
Charles George QC
Keith Lindblom QC
Christopher Beaumont
Robert McCracken
Philip Petchey
Jonathan Miller
Andrew Kelly

Timothy Comyn
Andrew Tsai
Graig Howell Williams
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The members of 5 New Square express their appreciation to James Summicks DL on his retirement as Head of Chambers after 18 years hard work and are pleased to announce that Jonathan Rayner James QC has become Head of Chambers as his successor. James Summicks will continue to practice at 5 New Square.

Chambers are also pleased to announce that Alistair Abbott has accepted an invitation to join chambers from 1 October 1997 following completion of his pupillage. The members of Chambers are:

Jonathan Rayner James QC
Ernest H Soames
John Rose Murray
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Paul Dickins
Anthony Martino
Nicholas Caddick
Simon Sugar

Alistair Abbott

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Talking too much

One of the oldest tricks in the interviewer's book is to say nothing. Let the candidate flounder for a while, filling the silence with a rush of prepared interview answers, responses to questions that have not been asked.

The more they say, the worse the impression they make. It takes a strong-minded candidate to sit and wait for the next question, or to ask if there is anything more the interviewer wishes to hear.

But some candidates simply cannot contain themselves. They will run a verbal marathon unprompted. I remember a candidate so well qualified he could easily have got the job he wanted if he had said virtually nothing. Instead, he never stopped talking. The interviewer told me that he became increasingly annoyed that the candidate could talk and breathe at the same time. No offer was made. They were worried about the impression he'd give to their clients.

The same mistake is sometimes made by interviewees. They talk so much about their firm that candidates are given no opportunity either to ask questions or to reveal themselves. If the firm is not interested in who they are, why should the candidate want to work for them?

Interviews can be over-prepared. It is sometimes enough to take them as they come. You will see things you weren't looking for, things you would never have thought of in advance.

Michael Chambers

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Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Pensions: City
Pensions practice where half the partners are listed in Chambers as leading practitioners offers March '98 or Sept '97 qualification training and exp of highest quality.

Shipping Partner: Sydney
Leading Australian shipping firm seeks partner with strong contact base in the London market to play a key role in the international expansion of the practice.

EC Law: City
Medium-sized firm where quality of work is equivalent to the large firms seeks 1-4 year qualified solicitor for broad EC and UK competition caseload.

Media: City
Large national firm with strong media/entertainment practice seeks 2-4 year qualified assistant to handle a varied caseload of high profile non-contentious matters.

IP/IT: West London
Small team requires solicitor/barrister 2-4 years' ppe to handle intellectual property matters relating to new consumer products on the IT market.

Employment: Berkshire
Lawyer 1-3 years' ppe sought by services company. Workload will be mainly drafting and negotiating employment contracts and dealing with industrial relations/personnel matters.

Leasing: London
International finance company needs lawyer min 5-6 yrs' ppe. Experience of equipment leasing essential although position will also involve some M&A. Languages/qualification in another European country useful.

Property Finance: City
Med-sized firm offers 0-1 year qualified solicitor big ticket UK and East and West European work including high-profile, landmark development projects.

Construction: West End
Large West End firm seeks ongoing 1-5 year qualified assistant to handle high quality non-contentious construction, engineering and mineral rights work.

Corporate: City
Pre-eminent City firm offers 0-4 year qualified solicitors M&A and listings work of highest quality. Firm gives broad experience than many of its competitors.

Banking/Insolvency: Birmingham
High profile practice seeks solicitor c. 10-14 years' ppe with general non-contentious banking exp. Exposure to relevant corporate and/or property issues preferred.

Environmental Litigation: Manchester
1-4 yr qualified litigator sought by major firm for a range of work including water pollution & waste management. Prospects are excellent within this expanding dept.

MEDIA

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This top commercial media group has achieved a unique status and is recognised as a leader in many of the market sectors in which it operates. As the producer of a range of the most popular dramas and entertainment shows in the UK it attracts the best talent behind and in front of the camera and that track record has enabled it to meet increasing demand from other broadcasters for high quality programmes. The group has developed a major international presence, co-producing with international partners in the USA and worldwide.

The London-based production arm now requires an additional executive to join its Business Affairs team. They are looking for a 3-4 year qualified media lawyer, ideally with relevant production experience. You will be supporting a number of programme areas, with the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of the Group's activity from commissioning and production to distribution.

This position will appeal to a lawyer wanting to join a group that can offer outstanding opportunities for career development within the media sector. You must have the tenacity and confidence to work unsupervised and the flair to be part of a dynamic team.

Our client is an Equal Opportunities Employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

For further information in complete confidence, please telephone Lisa Hicks or Lizzy Orange on 0171-523 3838 (0181-740 4108 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail lizzie@zmb.co.uk Closing date for applications is Friday 17th October 1997.

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CORPORATE TAX To £55,000
This rapidly expanding London firm is at the forefront of the new era of law firm management. To reach its top quality high-tech and media corporate base, it offers a very encouraging meritocracy and enlightened leadership to corporate tax lawyers with 0-4 years' ppe. You'll have fun here. Ref: T29414

OVERSEAS To £Ex pat packages
If you want to perk up your career with a high-calibre posting abroad that will also improve your CV, then this top 10 City firm is the one. It could be Europe, the US, the Middle East, or the Far East for corporate, finance, projects or energy lawyers with 1-8 years' ppe. Just take your pick. Ref: T33618

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS To £Partner
Your career and pay packet will benefit enormously whether you are an employee or a partner in the employee benefits group of this top 10 City firm. The practice, like the firm as a whole, is very much on the up and you could jump aboard to enjoy the ride if you can show 4+ years' experience. Ref: T27455

STRUCTURED FINANCE US firm To \$top dollar
This is a huge opportunity for structured finance specialists of the very highest calibre to work in the London office of this major US firm. This is the big time, as you will be working for some exceptional clients in a practice that is taking the City by storm. Ref: T48824

CO/CO Home Counties To £60,000
City work and City pay without the City hassle. That's the deal at this highly professional Home Counties firm with a City-quality client list. To take advantage, you will have 0-6 years' ppe in company/commercial work and perhaps some non-contentious IP knowledge too. Ref: T43821

OIL AND GAS To £Partnership
If you want to fire up your career as an oil and gas lawyer, then you could not do better than this top 10 City firm, widely-rated as the having the best practice in the City. Excellent experience and training guaranteed if you have 3-4 years' ppe or are more senior with 5 years' ppe. Great prospects. Ref: T28336

INSOLVENCY To £44,000
Given the highly international nature of this leading City firm's practice, insolvency lawyers with 1-3 years' ppe will enjoy a very wide range of challenging cases, mainly contentious, as well as a training and career development programme that will set you up perfectly for the rest of your career. Ref: T42180

FINANCIAL SERVICES To £Market rate+
Last year's most exciting City start-up now wants to develop a financial services practice and will pay top money for lawyers at all levels who help it achieve this. A unique opportunity given the huge potential here to build up a class practice very quickly. A move you will not regret. Ref: T38433

PENSIONS To £36,000
Pensions has become one of the most interesting and important niches in the City, and the success of this leading firm reflects that. It is the perfect place for young solicitors with 0-1 years' ppe but not necessarily pensions experience to learn a trade that will guarantee a comfortable retirement. Ref: T37554

CORP/COMMERCIAL/BANKING To £55,000
Experienced lawyers do not have to specialise to get a top job in the City, as the opportunity at this leading firm proves. It is for a lawyer with 3-5 years' ppe who can handle an even mix of corporate/commercial and banking work. Partnership is very much on the agenda here. Ref: T33321

EU/COMPETITION To £130,000
As a senior EU/competition specialist at this top City firm, you will be based in London, but will also be expected to spend some time in Paris. If that's not too much of an imposition. The work if you have 5+ years' ppe (up to junior partner level) will focus on the media/telecoms sector. Ref: T43802

BROAD BANKING To £60,000
As if the very broad spread of international banking work for the blue-chip clients of this friendly top 20 City firm was not enough to attract quality lawyers with 1-5 years' ppe, there is also the promise of partnership based on merit. You could have a vanilla banking or property finance background. Ref: T33033

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY To £40,000
A smaller London firm like this one has much to be said for it - genuinely good responsibility for high quality matters in an atmosphere where your contribution will be recognised and rewarded. You can also expect good training and support if you are a commercial property lawyer with 1-2 years' ppe. Ref: T43859

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Nick Peacock, Sarah David or Adrian Fox (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-495 6862 (0171-228 0476 or 0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JF. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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S. London - Great opportunity for 4yr+ ppe lawyer to head up treasury function of major finance co. Varied, quality work, relaxed working environment & City rate salary.

PERSONAL INJURY Essex 5yrs+
Major insurance co seeks senior PI lawyer to advise claims dept. Defendant experience preferred but a good plaintiff PI specialist would be considered. Generous salary.

IP LAWYER 1-3yrs
London - Bright IP lawyer to join legal team of leading international co. The role involves a wide range of copyright, brands and trademark work. Great first in-house move.

CO/COM/FINANCE 2-6yrs
London - Great opportunity to join int'l division of major institution, establishing operations overseas. Co/comm or finance experience essential, as is the ability to work closely with a small team.

INSURANCE LITIGATOR 2-6yrs
London - City institution seeks high calibre litigator, ideally with insurance/re-insurance exp, to handle a wide range of high quality int'l and domestic litigation.

BLUE CHIP PLC 2-3yrs
London - Leading co. seeks City trained co/comm lawyer to join highly regarded team. Varied, high quality work in great team environment. Great opportunity for business minded lawyer to make first in-house move.

TRANSACTIONS Paris 3-6yrs
Exciting role for high calibre lawyer, fluent in French, to join global leader in front-line commercial role, drafting/negotiating a range of transactions. Personality is key - range of experience less so.

COMMERCIAL/IT to 3 yrs
Hampshire - High-tech co seeks commercial lawyer to join legal team to draft & negotiate a wide range of non-standard contracts. Some IT/IP experience preferred. To c.32k

PLAINTIFF INSURANCE LIT. 1-3yrs
Interesting plaintiff workload including professional indemnity/general insurance disputes at popular Holborn firm for strong London-trained lawyer with strong academics.

NO COM. PROPERTY Media Firm
Ambitious NO lawyer with an appetite for challenging property caseload and a dynamic working environment sought by popular Covent Garden firm. City articles essential.

EMPLOYMENT 1 yr
New department headed by high profile partner seeks City-trained junior lawyer wishing to play an instrumental role in its development. Contentious/non-contentious workload.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL 4-7yrs
London office of highly regarded national firm seeks top calibre Co/comm lawyer probably seeking to move from a larger firm for strong personal autonomy and prospects.

TECHNOLOGY LIT Partner Designate
Rare opportunity for senior litigation assistant 5-8 yrs ppe ideally with technology litigation experience to join one of the leading teams in this field. Genuine prospects.

INTERNET/MULTIMEDIA 1-3 yr
Exciting workload awaits junior lawyer with strong technical background/technology experience in progressive team of this highly respected IT practice.

INSURANCE LIT 1-3yrs
A fantastic opportunity for a bright junior lawyer to undertake insurance/reinsurance litigation and arbitration in this small City firm with a leading reputation in this field. Personality is as important as academics.

KNOW-HOW To £70K
We have a number of full/part-time Know-How positions in Corporate, Litigation, Banking, Employment, Financial Services. Regular Hours and good career structure.

FAMILY 2-4yrs
Popular firm with leading reputation in family law seeks very bright lawyer to join its thriving team. Excellent academics and experience of high net worth cases vital.

PROPERTY LIT. 1-2yrs
Superb opportunity for strong junior lawyer to undertake high calibre property litigation work in one of the most successful and envied firms in the West End. Competitive package.

COMM. PROPERTY 1-4yrs
This South West London firm has a successful track record in attracting City lawyers wishing to play an instrumental role in its development. Contentious/non-contentious workload.

COMMERCIAL 1-4yrs
A wide range of commercial work is on offer at this small, respected City firm which has a strong international practice. Would possibly suit someone disenchanted with a larger City firm.

INSOLVENCY/BANKING 1-3yrs
Highly regarded medium sized City firm requires top calibre lawyer for interesting blend of non-contentious insolvency/banking work. Strong academics and City training desirable.

CORPORATE TAX 1-3yrs
A real chance to make a mark in this progressive Holborn based firm which offers a truly varied workload in an entrepreneurial environment. A genuine 'quality of life' move.

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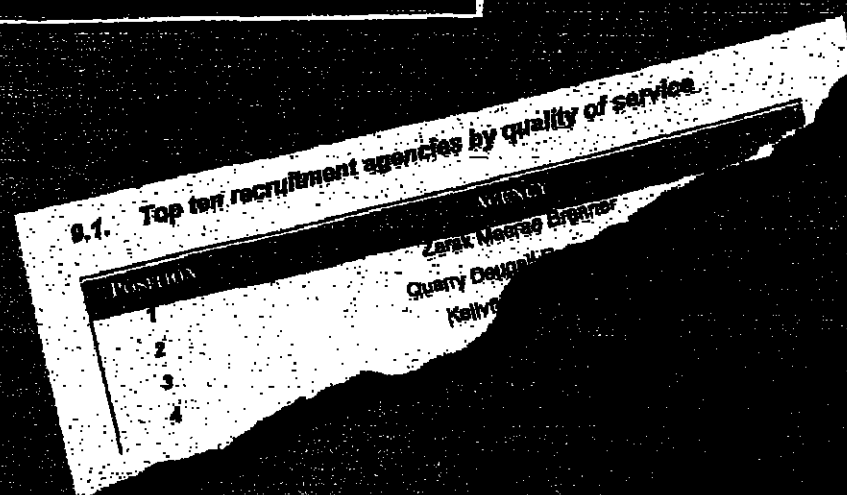
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Our client is unique. Fostering a genuine sense of partnership, the firm enjoys a level of success that belies its size and, above all, gives its partners the freedom to really shape the business. With an undisputed reputation for excellence in several ground breaking practice areas, the firm also has an increasingly influential corporate team which boasts a client list of some of the world's largest and most successful companies. Like the rest of the firm, this area of its practice is enjoying a period of unprecedented growth and is now poised to expand yet further by recruiting partners with a like minded approach. This represents a genuine opportunity to work in an environment free of rigid hierarchies and office politics and to enjoy the rewards of working in one of London's most innovative and progressive law firms. For an initial discussion please contact Jonathan Brenner or Yvonne Smyth on 0171 523 3838 (0181 940 6848 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Maqsood Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171 523 3839. Email: jonathan@zmb.co.uk

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As part of our development we are seeking another legal adviser. The role will range from developing the Commission's policies to giving specific advice on legal issues arising in individual cases. You will be involved in planning, preparing and delivering training on legal issues, developing written guidance material, liaising with legal contacts and conducting any litigation involving the Commission.

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You will be a solicitor or barrister with at least five years' post-qualification experience in criminal law. You will have excellent communication skills and have a flexible approach to working in an evolving team environment.

The appointment will be made for a period of three years with the possibility of renewal. Relocation assistance is available.

To apply, please send your CV to Jeanette Wignall, Criminal Cases Review Commission, Alpha Tower, Suffolk Street Queensway, Birmingham B1 1TL. For an information pack tel: 0121 633 1800 or fax: 0121 633 1823. Closing date: 27 October 1997.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission is an Equal Opportunities Employer.



ATKIN CHAMBERS Barristers

Atkin Chambers are pleased to announce that John Blackburn Q.C. has accepted the appointment as head of Chambers with effect from 1 October 1997. He will succeed Anthony Butcher Q.C. who is retiring from practice at the Bar but will continue to accept, through Chambers, appointments to act as arbitrator.

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B. C. Toms & Co. seek a UK or US qualified lawyer for its Kiev, Ukraine office.

The ideal candidate will have 2-3 years experience with a reputable Western law firm and speak Russian or Ukrainian.

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6+ years pqe

You will have at least 6 years' relevant post-qualification experience in large scale contentious construction work. Proven marketing skills and the ability to lead and motivate a team would be a key requirement and previous Hong Kong experience would be a distinct advantage. Early partnership prospects exist for the right candidate.

Commercial Litigation

3-6 years pqe

You will have at least 3 years' post-qualification experience of major commercial litigation and an ability to take the initiative and tackle a wide range of challenging work. A good command of Cantonese would be an advantage.

These are challenging roles demanding high calibre lawyers, who share their long term commitment to Hong Kong and the region, and who are able to play an active role in the strategic development of their East Asia practice. The successful candidate will be offered an attractive compensation package and the opportunity to develop a long term career within a leading international law firm.

For a confidential discussion contact Conor Greene or Nick Root on 0171 415 2828 (evenings 0171 652 1527) or write to them at Taylor Root International, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DD.

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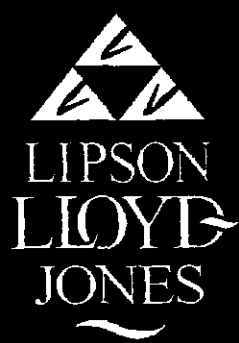
Procter & Gamble is a well-known international consumer products group with an annual UK turnover of £1,800 million and 5,500 employees. Their brands are household names.

A commercial lawyer is now sought to join the Legal Department of the UK Health & Beauty Care Headquarters in Surrey. The work is wide-ranging and includes consumer/advertising law, employment law, competition law, and product liability as well as the drafting of commercial agreements and leases.

The Legal Counsel will join an existing small proactive legal team dedicated to providing the company with a comprehensive legal service in-house and working closely with outside counsel where more specialist advice is needed.

Candidates should be solicitors with preferably 2-3 years' experience in general commercial work. Technical ability alone is not sufficient. Candidates should also have an understanding of underlying business requirements, a willingness to take personal responsibility and the ability to communicate practical advice at all levels of management.

The salary and benefits package offered is highly competitive.



If you would like to discuss this exciting opportunity, please contact Lucy Boyd, Senior Consultant.

This vacancy is being handled on an exclusive basis. Any third party or direct applications will be forwarded to Lipson Lloyd Jones.

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The story so far...

Another month of Interactive Team Football has passed... And I still haven't won any money. It's a marathon, not a sprint. It's who's top at the end of the season that counts. Stop talking like a manager; that's my job. Plus it's not true in ITF. Apart from the £50,000, there's a monthly prize of £1,000. Which I've missed again. Haven't you even won a pair of tickets to a premier league game? That must have about the same cash value. Not far off; and anyway, you have to be a youth... No chance there, then... or a woman or a student to win the monthly mini-league prizes. I thought you were a student of life. Doesn't count, I'm afraid. But you've definitely been doing your homework. I'm impressed by your knowledge of the system. What else have you found out? That I'm 20,000th in the overall standings. Worse than Barnsley. Worse than Doncaster. Worse than your Sunday league team in all probability... but that isn't too bad, you know. How do you mean? Well, there are hundreds of thousands of competitors involved in ITF this season. 20,000th is actually pretty good. Somewhere near the top ten percent. I should think. So more Derby than Doncaster, as it turns out. In a way. More Manchester United than Barnsley, in fact? You could say so. In line for a place in Europe? Let's not get carried away. There are 19,999 managers above you, after all. Maybe there are now — but wait till the soft grounds come along! That's the spirit. But speaking of grounds, what's been happening out on the park, as you managers say? Didn't I catch a glimpse of your man Babayaro playing for Chelsea the other day? In that European game? Yes, another full-back playing in midfield. Quite a feature of Chelsea this season. Still hasn't played a league game though, has he? Not as such. Phew. So he hasn't been booked or sent off. That's the other main feature of Chelsea this season. You could have sold him before the revaluation. I thought about it. But better the devil you know... Or the one you haven't seen play...



ITF winners are celebrating their monthly prizes this week

He has discarded one or two Leeds United defenders with whom he began the season, but sounds like George Graham when discussing the secrets of his success. "All my teams are built on solid defence. Most of my teams have David Seaman in goal, and another Arsenal defender — they're not going to give away

goals. And you couldn't go wrong with Berg and Pallister." Up front, half of the Paolo Negri-Chris Sutton dream ticket was in place from the beginning. "Negri I thought was a giveaway at the start of the season at £3.5 million (he has since been revalued, and would now cost £6.5 million). I had him in virtually every team." Mr Farhall is a believer in using the transfer market to its full potential, and a keen student of form. "Andy Smith of Dundermire did well last season," he said. "There are quite a few bargains around in Scotland."

You can still enter ITF via The Times Website (www.thetimes.co.uk), via LineOne or via Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 118). Please note that some features such as mini-leagues may not be available on these platforms.

To find out your points total and ranking call the ITF helpline on **0891 884 643**

September success: Keith Farhall, right, this month's ITF winner, celebrates his £1,000 prize with his son Stuart and Wimbledon central defender Chris Perry

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1997-8 matches in the FA Cup, FA Cup, FA Cup, Scottish League Premier Division and Tannets Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED	
Goalkeeper	Keeps clean sheet (per half) +3 points
Saves goal	+2 points
Full backs/Central defender	Keeps clean sheet +3 points
Midfield player	Keeps clean sheet +3 points
Striker	Scores goal +2 points
All players	On winning side +1 point
Appearance	+1 point
Manager	Scores hat-trick +10 bonus points
Wins	+3 points
Draws	+1 point

POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	Concedes goal -2 points
Full backs/Central defender	Concedes goal -2 points
All players	Sent off -3 points
Striker	Booted -1 point
Concedes penalty	-1 point
Manager	Misses penalty -1 point
Team losses	-1 point

* Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points
* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

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If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0217-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE £50,000 top prize £2,000 monthly prize	PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE Professionals choose their fantasy team
STUDENTS' LEAGUE Monthly prize of £1,000 Signed football and sports bag	YOUTH LEAGUE Monthly prize of £1,000 Signed football and sports bag
WOMEN'S LEAGUE Monthly prize of £1,000 Signed football and sports bag	

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1 S Whitfield	266	Snail Busters	266
2 H Irvine	265	Hell's Belles	265
3 L Chadleigh	264	Rolland FC	264
4 E Hughes	263	Punters Town	263
5 S Webb	262	Sharnsburys	262
6 P Johnston	261	XII Superstars	261
7 M Parnott	260	Mel's Red Devils	260
8 J Gardner	259	St Chumwumbas	259
9 S Catchpole	258	Blue Boys	258
10 E Smeat	257	United States	257
11 O Hodge	256	Avon's Calling	256
12 L Hall	255	Louise's	255
13 A Fraser	254	Linda's Lagers	254
14 A Hembrow	253	The Beccolans I	253
15 J Hillon	252	Woking Phantoms	252
16 C Kelly	251	C K P's	251
17 K Meek	250	Kimbo's Killers	250
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19 B Sharp	248	Penfield FC	248
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STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1 N Wheatley	292	H D G is A Sad Waster	292
2 N Wheatley	288	Wetheridge is ill	288
3 P Henson	287	Henshammers	287
4 Z Tizer	286	Ziggy Greaves XI	286
5 D Harber	285	Supersonic City 2	285
6 I McGill	284	The White Helms	284
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8 D Legg	282	Sin City	282
9 N Lamb	281	Perfecto FC	281
10 S Jobburn	280	Jobburns Giants	280
11 A Riley	279	Hot Ice	279
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15 D Dwyer	275	Forver Reserves	275
16 N Prior	274	Los Vencedores	274
17 P Kelsey	273	No name	273
18 R Wood	272	Scope XI	272
19 L Lee	271	Maxwell's Marvels	271
20 S Bell	270	Eddie Wednesday	270

YOUTH LEAGUE

1 G Calderbank	273	Calders XI	273
2 R Wicke	272	Robbed	272
3 S Bird	271	Golden Wonders	271
4 M McPhillips	270	Ballygallyovers	270
5 D John	269	The Dream Team	269
6 L Legg	268	Sin City	268
7 B Wilson	267	Wilson Wanderers	267
8 T Langran	266	No name	266
9 S Ranfield	265	Banjo's Best XI	265
10 A Ward	264	Seven XI	264
11 A Hilberd	263	Andy's Blue Fries	263
12 E Sworley	262	Esters Eotainers	262
13 J Gardner	261	IS Chumwumbas	261
14 B Davidson	260	Los Kinkie	260
15 D Phillips	259	Dans Dream Team	259
16 S Wilson	258	Samsuperselec	258
17 T Smith	257	Up The League FC	257
18 C Weston	256	Charlie's Crackers	256
19 M Roberts	255	Kryskan's Three	255
20 C Mariawczak	254	Jansen's XI	254

ITF LEAGUE

1 Mr D Edrooke Stainer	316	Weston United F.C.	316
2 Peter McDerm	315	Flying Kiwis	315
3 Allison Scamion	314	Legion	314
4 J W Goody	313	Groce 4	313
5 S Legg	312	Teddybears Pinknicks	312
6 Mrs Sheila Bortland	311	Keith 3	311
7 K Farhall	310	Mr M Jones	310
8 K Farhall	309	Keith 9	309
9 K Nooner	308	United	308
10 D Stiner	307	Don 2	307
11 Mr S Legg	306	Mondo 6	306
12 Mike Hutchinson	305	Patricios FC	305
13 V Cox	304	Pegasus And Unicorns	304
14 Mrs I Smith	303	Alpines Aces	303
15 Mulrond	302	Goulou Goulou	302
16 R Calder	301	Boba Boys	301
17 Mr TA Richards	300	AT	300
18 S Legg	299	Groce 5	299
19 N Wheatley	298	H D G is A Sad Waster	298
20 Bruce Trudgill	297	Stick as a Parrot	297
21 J W Goody	296	Jag	296
22 Mr M Jones	295	JES	295
23 Susan Makin	294	spad2	294
24 Henshammers	293	Is Sell To Come	293
25 Mr N Wheatley	292	Wetheridge is ill	292
26 A Birtwell	291	File Flyers	291
27 Mr P Mirams	290	Shrapners II	290
28 Barba Paps a la Bacon	289	Novus Spillers	289
29 Rajesh Gohil	288	Gohil Brothers 25	288
30 K Farhall	287	Keith 4	287
31 K Farhall	286	Keith 7	286
32 P Bown	285	Woodside Wallops I	285
33 Morgan Kelly	284	Club 18-30	284
34 Andy Robson	283	Seaside Spokes	283
35 Ian Kilip	282	John Hunt Tacton 7	282
36 J Hunt	281	M-d F	281
37 D Lawrence	280	A/C Athletic	280
38 C K P's	279	Libers	279
39 S Stiner	278	Hendo One	278
40 AG Henderson	277	Build 4	277
41 J Heather	276	Libers	276
42 D Ross	275	united united	275
43 andrew	274	united united	274
44 L Clark	273	united united	273
45 Mr D Longworth	272	united united	272
46 C Miles	271	Vahalla FC	271
47 H Prichard	270	Cymru Am Byth 12	270
48 O Dolan	269	Gemets	269
49 Mr M Tole	268	Apple	268
50 D Ingham	267	Ang 1	267
51 Mr N Akram	266	Men In Black	266
52 Mr M Jones	265	Joe	265
53 Graeme Dabnor	264	St Remy Strikers	264
54 Mr B Wiley	263	Poulas Boys	263
55 Mr C Head	262	Colb	262
56 Mr D Puzi	261	Do2	261
57 A Nevazaki	260	Nadar	260
58 Mr W Robinson	259	Kates Champs 2	259
59 S Legg	258	Groce 2	258
60 D Stiner	257	Russell 2	257
61 Dave D. Brave	256	UK All Stars II	256
62 Steven Adams	255	Britannia Spokes	255
63 Mrs D Nichols	254	Odds N Sods	254
64 AG Henderson	253	Hendo Four	253
65 R Yauer	252	Fairfield Dons C	252
66 Mike Allison	251	Inner Net	251
67 Jeremy Dwyer	250	santamarta	250
68 James Tan	249	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	249
69 George Mijuskovich	248	Red Scissors	248
70 V Cox	247	Alan Cox Dunder Hansen	247
71 Mr C Karfoot	246	Real Telenovelas	246
72 S Legg	245	Groce 3	245
73 Mr A Mellon	244	Shore Hits	244
74 R Birtwell	243	Rainbows Topleam	243
75 Mr D Longworth	242	Keith 2	242
76 Mr B Cobbold	241	Corn On The Cob	241
77 Mr D Longworth	240	Dans Dons	240
78 D Stiner	239	Refined 4	239
79 D Pirmage	238	Bowenford Bulls	238
80 Tim King	237	The Wiltonians	237
81 Rajesh Gohil	236	Gohil Brothers 19	236
82 Mary Ann Kennedy	235	Liverness Undecided	235
83 S Legg	234	Groce 2	234
84 Jon Tregon	233	Prognosis XI	233
85 Mr D Puzi	232	Do2	232
86 Mr P Masterson	231	Georgia Rose	231
87 D Stiner	230	Jacts	230
88 S Chiswell	229	Uncle Bens Town	229
89 NU Gay	228	Dudline Maybes	228
90 R L	227	Reachers never change their sp	227
91 Jim Alinik	226	R Boys	226
92 Mr A Ward	225	Gohil Brothers 22	225
93 C Milner	224	Gun-Strips	224
94 Premie Stars	223	IT F C Ha M P S	223
95 F Bee	222	Shooting Stars	222
		Premie Stars	221
		Smile Twelve	220

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	238
2	Kenny Cunningham	Wimbledon	199
3	Bjorn Kvarme	Liverpool	198
4	Jason East	Wimbledon	173
5	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	172
6	Simon Grayson	Leicester City	171
7	Bob Savage	Leicester City	170
8	David Weatherall	Lands United	169
9	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	168
10	Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	167
11	Paul Williams	Coventry City	166
12	Punter Keanmark	Leicester City	165
13	Phil Bald	Liverpool	164
14	Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	163
15	John Hendrie	Barnsley	162
16	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	161
17	John Salako	Coventry City	160
18	John Beresford	Newcastle United	159
19	Kevin Muscat	Cystal Palace	158
20	David Seaman	Arsenal	157
21	David Batty	Newcastle United	156
22	Paul Simpson	Derby County	155
23	Steve Potts	West Ham United	154
24	Neil Redburn	Barnsley	153
25	Frank Lebon	Chelsea	152
26	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa	151
27	Kyle Lighthorne	Coventry City	150
28	Alf-Inge Haaland	Leds United	149
29	Chris Pugh	Derby County	148
30	Tim Brackley	West Ham United	147
31	Gary Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	146
32	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	145
33	Patrick Berger	Liverpool	144
34	Dave Watson	Everton	143
35	Les Dixon	Arsenal	142
36	Robin Van Der Laan	Derby County	141
37	John Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	140
38	Andrew Liddell	Barnsley	139
39	Darren Fletcher	Chelsea	138
40	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	137
41	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	136
42	Danny Williamson	Everton	135
43	Graeme Le Saux	Chelsea	134
44	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	133
45	Kevin Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	132
46	David Tuttle	Cystal Palace	131
47	Richard Johnson	Leeds United	130
48	Ugo Riboldi	Aston Villa	129
49	Gary Neville	Manchester United	128
50	Andy Simons	Tottenham Hotspur	127
51	Gianfranco Zola	Chelsea	126
52	Ian Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	125
53	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	124
54	Roger Cook	Tottenham Hotspur	123
55	Stewart McCollifone	Wimbledon	122
56	Tokky Sheringham	Manchester United	121
57	John Henson	West Ham United	120
58	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	119
59	Nicky Eaden	Barnsley	118
60	David Murray	Leds United	117
61	Les Carlsley	Derby County	116
62	Dean Holdsworth	Bolton Wanderers	115
63	Svenster Price	Leicester City	114
64	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	113
65	Andy Roberts	Cystal Palace	112
66	Larry Robinson	Blackburn Rovers	111
67	Richard Shaw	Coventry City	110
68	Iain Dowie	West Ham United	109
69	Marc Edwards	Cystal Palace	108
70	Mark Wright	Liverpool	107
71	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	106
72	David Beasant	Manchester United	105
73	Alan Shearer	Newcastle United	104
74	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	103
75	Mike Whitlow	Leicester City	102

Guide to players, transfers and revaluations

They may perform brilliantly but your ITF players can be seriously penalised for lack of discipline



50 sports
interactive

The goals, the hat-tricks, the great saves that guarantee the clean sheets are the stuff of footballing glory, and the route to success in Interactive Team Football to boot. However, as in the game on grass, there is a place in any team for the steady player who turns in the consistent performance, week after week.

When you have splashed out the big money on star goalkeepers and a brick-wall defence, what is left would be wisely spent on a journeyman who puts in the appearances, seldom missing a game.

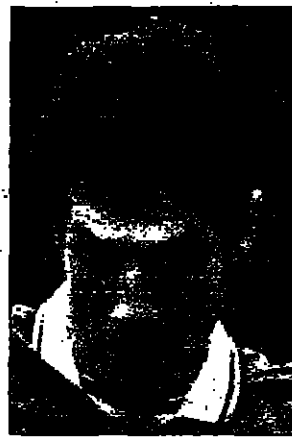
Words: Nick Szczepanik

weighing in with the odd goal, and staying out of the referee's book. For disciplinary indiscretions can be costly, as supporters of, say, Chelsea, have recently found.

Twice in recent weeks, Ruud Gullit's men have been reduced to ten and, in both cases, have gone on to lose the game; on Saturday the loss of Bernard Lambourde after only 26 minutes was, arguably, the turning point of the match at Liverpool.

In ITF, a player has a point deducted for every booking, and three for a dismissal. Naturally, a team with ten men is less likely to give a player a point for a win, and a subsequent suspension will cost the player his appearance points, as well as the opportunity to add to his points total in the conventional manner.

Slaven Bilic, the Everton central defender, and Justin Edinburgh, the Tottenham Hotspur full back, are the worst offenders in the FA Carling Premiership. Both have accrued four yellow cards and one red — a total of seven minus points. Brian O'Neill of Aberdeen, with three yellow cards and one red, and Chelsea's Dennis Wise and Coventry's Paul Williams, both of whom have seen yellow six times already, are the next-worst in the ITF lists.



THE PLAYER lists below now include values based on last week's player revaluation. Players in your team whose prices are listed in bold can now only be transferred at those prices, whatever their original value; this may mean that the total value of your squad is now more (or less) than the initial £35m, but you do not have to make transfers to restore the £35m total.



Above left: Bilic, who has seven minus points. Above: Lambourde, dismissed on Sunday

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

MOVED

53003 Dean Holdsworth Bolton Wanderers £3.0m
transferred from Wimbledon

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

FULL PLAYER LISTS INCLUDING OCTOBER REVALUATIONS, SHOWN IN BOLD TYPE. NEW PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM LAST WEEK

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2 - 9
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	8 35
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	8 22
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	-9 -24
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	3.50	8 24
10601	K Brannagan	Bolton W	1.50	2 16
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0 10
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	-7 10
10901	S Ogrtovic	Coventry City	1.50	7 23
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0 0
11100	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0 17
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	0 25
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	-2 -14
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	-2 0
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0 -1
11501	G Rousset	Harts	1.50	3 25
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0 0
11701	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	-4 -11
11801	N Marjyn	Leeds United	3.50	7 25
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	2.50	0 41
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-2 17
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	8 56
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0 0
12301	S Given	Newcastle	4.00	8 32
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0 3
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	3 -8
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	0.50	0 0
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	8 7
12901	I Walker	Tottenham	3.00	2 27
12901	L Mladokso	West Ham Utd	2.00	-2 7
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	2 19

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
20201	L Dton	Arsenal	3.00	5 9
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	5 19
20301	E Pett	Arsenal	3.00	5 10
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	2 12
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	5 10
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	5 10
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	2 4
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	-1 3
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	-5 -5
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00	-4 -4
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn	2.50	5 20
20503	P Valery	Blackburn	2.50	0 3
20601	N Cox	Bolton	2.00	0 3
21001	M Whitlow	Bolton	1.50	0 3
20602	R Elliott	Bolton	2.00	0 0
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	5 15
20702	T McInlay	Celtic	3.50	1 1
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	5 8
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	-3 17
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	0 0
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00	0 9
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0 0
20902	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0 0
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0 6
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	-1 3
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.00	0 5
21003	K Muscat	Crystal Palace	1.50	0 14
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.00	0 0
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 0
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	-2 -7
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0 2
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	1 2
21501	G Locke	Harts	1.00	0 0
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	2.50	4 10
21801	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	4 11
21802	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	4 27
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	1.50	0 9
22001	S Bjornabye	Liverpool	4.00	-1 0
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00	1 21
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	1 21
22101	D Irwin	Manchester Utd	4.00	1 23
22102	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	5 23
22103	P Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	5 15
22301	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5 18
22302	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	2.00	9 20
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	2.00	5 20
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0 6
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	-1 11
22402	S Stensness	Rangers	3.00	-1 11
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0 -16
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wed	2.00	1 -6
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75	2 -3
22702	F Benall	Southampton	0.75	1 1
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	2.00	0 0
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham	2.00	0 0
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham	2.00	0 0
22803	S Carr	Tottenham	3.00	0 0
22901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	1.50	-2 -1
22902	A Impey	West Ham Utd	2.00	0 -2
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	0 3
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0 3
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	0 1

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0 -11
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	5 9
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0 0
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0 12
30204	S Boulton	Arsenal	3.00	5 5
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	5 5
30302	U Ehlogu	Aston Villa	3.50	5 12
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	-5 -16
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	-3 -14
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0 -2
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	5 18
30504	S Henechov	Blackburn	2.50	5 10
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn	2.00	0 0
30601	G Taggart	Bolton	1.50	0 4
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton	1.00	0 5
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton	1.00	0 0
30604	M Fish	Bolton	1.50	0 0
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	1 1
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	5 2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	5 11
30704	M Ripper	Celtic	3.00	0 6
30801	F Lehoucq	Chelsea	3.00	0 10
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0 8
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	-3 5
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	-4 -1
30901	L Dalish	Coventry City	1.50	0 0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	4 12
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0 -1
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	-1 3
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	-1 3
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0 0
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	0 6
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50	0 12
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	-2 -6
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	-2 -4
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50	-2 -7
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	-2 -5
31501	D Weir	Harts	2.00	0 16
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	-3 1
31602	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.00	4 18
31802	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.00	4 8
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0 8
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	1.50	0 28
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	2.00	0 21
31902	P Keenmark	Leicester City	1.50	0 25
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	3.00	0 0
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0 0
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0 0
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	0 8
32004	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	5 23
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0 0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	5 28
32301	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0 13
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5 15
32303	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	5 5
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0 8
32401	S Porini	Rangers	3.50	-1 10
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0 10
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0 0
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	1 -3
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0 0
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0 -9
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0 -5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	5 5
32703	K McKelvey	Southampton	1.00	5 5
32801	S McCuskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0 0
32802	S Campbell	Tottenham	3.00	0 6
32803	J Scales	Tottenham	2.50	0 6
32804	R Vega	Tottenham	2.00	0 0
32805	C Calderwood	Tottenham	2.50	-1 8
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.00	-2 -4
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0 0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	-2 -5
32903	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0 0
32904	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	-3 -6
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0 6
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0 3

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00	0 5
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	1 4
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	2 31
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	3 18
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	0 1
40204	R Parlor	Arsenal	2.50	5 24
40205	A Platt	Arsenal	1.50	4 9
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00	0 17
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	3 20
40401	N Redfern	Barnsley	3.00	1 22
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00	1 14
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	1 5
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	0 7
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn	3.00	0 13
40502	B McKintay	Blackburn	3.00	3 10
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn	3.00	3 17
40504	G Fittcroft	Blackburn	3.00	3 17
40601	A Thompson	Bolton	2.50	0 17
40602	S Sellars	Bolton	2.00	0 8
40603	P Francis	Bolton	2.00	1 10
40604	M Johansen	Bolton	2.00	0 3

MIDFIELD PLAYERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
40605	J Pollock	Bolton	2.00	0 11
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	3 13
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0 6
42503	R Binkler	Celtic	3.00	0 4
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	3 19
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	0 16
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	1 16
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0 0
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	4 28
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	2 13
40902	T Solovt	Coventry City	1.50	2 13
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	2 13
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	1 8
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0 0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	1 17
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	1 18
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0 2
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	0 14
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0 2
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	0 17
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0 2
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0 17
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	7 18
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	4 17
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	1 20
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0 6
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0 6
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	1 18
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	5 28
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0 6
41602	B McIntyre	Hibernian	2.00	4 17
41701	J McLartyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0 6
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	2 16
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	0 4
41802	A Haaland	Leeds Utd	2.00	2 11
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.50	0 6
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0 6
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	0 16
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00	0 27
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0 6
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	2 27
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00	0 14
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0 14
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	0 14
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	5.00	1 24
42101	P Bechham	Manchester Utd	8.00	3 28
42102	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	3 19
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	0 23
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	3 28
42105	A Cole	Manchester Utd	5.00	0 10
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0 6
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	0 14
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	0 5
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	3 10
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0 11
42401	B Lundrup	Rangers	6.00	0 17
42402	P Gledhill	Rangers	5.00	5 10
42403	J James	Rangers	4.00	0 2
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	5 14
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wed	3.00	7 22
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	2 17
42502	N Penbridge	Sheffield Wed	2.00	2 8
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wed	1.00	0 4
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	1 13
42703	N Maddison	Southampton	0.75	0 30
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50	2 5
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	1.50	3 3
42801	A Sekeriloglu	St Johnstone	0.75	2 8
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham	3.00	0 5
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham	3.00	0 0
42803	R Fox	Tottenham	2.00	1 11
42804	D Howells	Tottenham	2.00	0 11
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham	3.00	1 5
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	1 21
42902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	1 11
42903	J Moncur	West Ham Utd	2.00	0 6
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.50	0 11
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	1 5
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	1 6
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00	1 7
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	1 7

Barry Town player in Gould's squad for World Cup qualifier in Belgium

Wales summon non-league recruit

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

GAINING selection for the country listed at 98th in the world rankings may not rate as the most distinguished of honours, but Gary Lloyd, the Barry Town defender, could barely contain himself yesterday. He had been called into the Wales squad for the group seven World Cup qualifying match against Belgium on Saturday.

Lloyd, 25, who once worked in a meat factory, is the first non-league player in the post-war era to be picked for the Principality's full international squad. Although unlikely to start the game in Brussels, he was delighted to have caught the eye of Bobby Gould, the Wales manager.

"I was told Bobby wanted to talk to me but I thought it was no more than a joke," Lloyd said. "Then I realised it wasn't. I'm amazed, stunned — it's a dream come true for me. I've watched all the Welsh players on TV and now I'm going to be training and travelling with them."

"I'm not really expecting to play but it will still be an unbelievable experience just to be involved. I've got the chance to rub shoulders with the likes of Neville Southall and Ryan Giggs. It's going to be wonderful."

Lloyd, who lives in Llanelli, has never represented Wales at any level, though he once captained his district schoolboy side. His is the son of Gil Lloyd, the former Wales amateur international, and played for Llanelli until moving to Barry, the League of Wales champions, four years ago.

Gould, always keen to reward emerging talent, has monitored his progress for several years. "I almost called him up for a full international in Albania a couple of seasons ago when we were badly hit by injuries," he said. He watched



Flag day: Gary Lloyd, of Barry Town, shows off the Welsh flag yesterday after hearing of his call-up for the game in Brussels on Saturday

him play last week in Barry's 2-1 victory against Swansea City in the Football Association of Wales Invitation Cup at the Vetch Field. With Kit Symons, the Manchester City defender, dropping out of the squad because of injury, Lloyd, a left back, received the unexpected call.

Gould links him to Stuart Pearce, the England and

Newcastle United full back, who he signed from non-league Wealdstone when he was manager of Coventry City. "He reminds me very much of Stuart," Gould said, "and I know he has the ability to make a step up like this."

Barry, the only full-time professional club in the League of Wales, completed a domestic treble last season.

After winning the championship, the Welsh Cup and the League Cup, they competed in the European Cup Champions' League preliminary round earlier this season, but were beaten 6-0 on aggregate by Dynamo Kiev, of Ukraine, who drew 2-2 with Newcastle last week.

"Gary's selection is a marvellous honour for the club,"

Chris Aust, the Barry general manager, said. "We're very proud of him and wish him every success in the Welsh squad. It also underlines the progress we have made here in recent years."

Wales have long since lost their chance of reaching the World Cup finals in France next year and have slipped behind the likes of Guatemala,

Sierra Leone and Tanzania in the rankings of Fifa, the world governing body. However, the game on Saturday is vital for Belgium. If they beat Wales, they will finish second in the group and force their way into the play-offs to determine the last four qualifiers from Europe. If they lose or draw, Turkey can overtake them by winning in Holland.

Yorath expected to take over as Huddersfield sack Horton

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRIAN HORTON, the Huddersfield Town manager, was dismissed yesterday by the struggling Nationwide League club. Huddersfield, who have yet to win a league match in nine attempts this season, are expected to appoint Terry Yorath, the former Wales manager, as first-team coach today.

Peter Jackson, 36, the former Huddersfield captain, is also likely to return to the club as part of a new coaching team.

Horton, 48, took over from Neil Warnock two years ago, shortly after being dismissed by Manchester City. He was

hardly surprised by the developments yesterday. "I can't say it has come as a bombshell because I've been in the game long enough to know this sort of thing happens in this situation," he said.

"I've enjoyed my stay; the staff have been excellent and the majority of the fans have given me their backing, but we have to accept that results have not been up to scratch. The players are still good enough to turn it around and I'm leaving a squad of good quality."

Although Horton's squad was frequently depleted by injuries, he achieved little success when delving into the

transfer market. Huddersfield were the only club in the Nationwide League and FA Carling Premiership not to sign a player during the summer.

"Managers stand or fall by their results and that's what we have taken into account," Malcolm Asquith, the Huddersfield chairman, said. "Brian has been a good man to work with."

Yorath, 47, who lives in Leeds, took Wales to the brink of the World Cup finals in 1994 but they were beaten 2-1 by Romania in Cardiff in their final qualifying match. More recently, he has been the national coach of Lebanon.

Dismay greets Keegan book

SUPPORTERS of Newcastle United have reacted with dismay to claims by Kevin Keegan, the former manager, that he was forced out by the club and denied a "dignified" exit as he prepared for flotation on the Stock Market. Keegan says in his new book — *Kevin Keegan: My Autobiography* — that he had decided that he would leave Newcastle at the end of last season, but, instead, was told by board members that it would be better that he departed straight away.

Keegan, now the chief operating officer with Fulham, left St James' Park nine months ago after five years in charge. He says in the book's serialisation in *The Sun* that he wanted to leave last Christmas, because he felt he could no longer motivate the play-

ers or himself, but had agreed to stay on until the end of the season. He was then advised to go immediately.

Steve Wraith, editor of *No 9*, the Newcastle fanzine, said: "We are very upset at the way Kevin has sold his story. We will never forget him as a player or manager, who took us to where we are now, but to come out and say things like this is an insult to us."

On January 7, Keegan was summoned to a board meet-

ing and told that he was "an integral part of the flotation document" and would have to sign a two-year contract or leave. "I knew what had happened," Keegan said. "The board dared not reveal to the City that I was leaving in the summer. They couldn't lie, either, so they panicked... I just looked at them and said: 'Right, let's get this settled because I'm not staying beyond the end of the season. There's no turning back.'"

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY LEAGUE

Branson arrives in nick of time

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ONLY rugby league could say farewell to downtrodden Oldham after more than a century and in the same week take Richard Branson to its bosom in London. Either it is conquering the world, or its small world is collapsing.

In becoming chairman of London Broncos, Branson said: "We wouldn't buy into Manchester United, because the achievement is already there. Rugby league is a fantastic sport, a wonderful family sport. To get in on its infancy is the right thing."

Try telling that to 102-year-old Oldham, relegated from the Super League this season, and whose shareholders will be asked to approve the act of going into liquidation. The grass roots are being pulled up with one hand and seeds scattered with the other — to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cardiff, and Dublin, whichever is awarded the Paris franchise next year, or in 1999.

Ah, Paris! Impossibly glamorous, yet the scene of what felt like the new Super League's finest hour 19 months ago, when 18,000 non-plussed Parisians witnessed the opening defeat of Sheffield Eagles. Investors are urgently sought to fulfil the transplantation of Paris into one of the new cities.

Two years into the five-year deal with News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, London represents the partial fulfilment of the contractual obligation to break out from the M62 corridor. A process that should have begun in 1995 is only now

gearing up, but the spread of the Super League could extend from London to Scotland and beyond within 18 months.

What is obvious is that there are insufficient talented players — British anyway — to go round. The 1997 season, with the three-match Great Britain v Australia series outstanding, was no classic, and the world club championship, which resulted in four Antipodean semi-finalists, left British teams scoured and fears that the wounds will be reopened at Wembley, Old Trafford, and Elland Road next month.

The 1997 season showed that British teams are lagging further behind their Australasian counterparts, technically, fitness-wise, and in mental preparation. Even so, the potential does exist. The Broncos' crowds at the Stoop Memorial Ground have been better than Harlequins, their landlords. Branson's presence can only feed the appetite for rugby league, although the cosmopolitan attraction of the world championship in London contrasted with its parochial reception in the North.

Bradford Bulls averaged 15,000 home attendances in winning the Super League, but their ill-fated world title campaign was nowhere near as popular. Local enmity is what the game thrives on in its concentrated northern enclave. Its strength at grass roots is also its weakness when it comes to spreading the game, but Oldham's untimely demise and Branson's timely arrival form an interesting paradox.

South opened One Heart after two passes and West over-called One Spade. Thereafter North showed a hand with a few high cards and South a hand with good playing strength and at least ten red cards. North-South ended in Four Hearts.

After this informative auction, West (Geoff Hampson, a silver medalist in the World Junior Championships) led three rounds of spades. Declarer ruffed and advanced the queen of hearts. Hampson rose with the ace and played a fourth spade. East ruffed in with his ten of hearts, promoting Hampson's eight for one down. They were the only pair to beat Four Hearts.

Hampson's skill was in recognising that he had to play East for either J10, J9 or 109 of hearts to beat the contract. Many Wests started with three rounds of spades but then ducked the first trump

trick — now it was too late.
□ After a total of three week-ends, the winners of the Camrose Trials were John Collings, Martin Jones (Warwickshire), Alan Mould and Gary Hyatt (Manchester) with 187 VPs. Runners-up were Dick Shek, Gus Calderwood, David Burn and Joe Fawcett (London) with 163. Both pairs of each team are guaranteed at least one match for England in this season's Camrose Internationals against the other home countries.

□ *The Times* Book of Bridge 1, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B.T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 p&g).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

RAMPALLION
a. The king dandelion
b. A forward woman
c. A jousting lance

TITULAR
a. A bird
b. An Etruscan God
c. Holding a title

GOSSOON
a. A young lad
b. A racing sail
c. A transparent fabric

MURCID
a. Muddy, turbid
b. Lazy, idle
c. Rancid, rotten

Answers on page 46

ICE HOCKEY

Late goal spree destroys Cobras

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AFTER the first weekend of Superleague action, it is already obvious that the competition will be closer than last season and goals will be hard to come by. Of six games played, four were tied, one was won by a single goal and only one saw a team score more than three times.

Ayr Scottish Eagles beat Newcastle Cobras 5-4, but it was not until late in the second period that they broke a 1-1 deadlock with two goals in less than three minutes. They scored twice more in the final session to complete the win, which might have been more decisive but for another excellent game by Stephen Foster in the Newcastle goal.

Scott O'Connor, whose opportunities were rare last season as he watched Trevor Robins give some superlative performances in goal for Nottingham Panthers, made his fourth appearance of the season, and produced 40 saves as the Panthers were held 2-2 by Bracknell Bees.

Both Bracknell goals came while they had a manpower advantage, but there were several occasions when the Nottingham defence was caught out of position and O'Connor outwitted the Bracknell forward each time.

Cardiff Devils played their second 3-3 tie of the weekend and needed a late equaliser by Steve Moria to salvage a point in their home opener against Basingstoke Bison. The Cardiff penalty killers played a leading role as the Devils were two men short for more than five minutes during the second period.

Ian Taylor has been appointed the chief executive of Superleague. He is best known as the goalkeeper for the Great Britain field hockey squad that won an Olympic gold medal in 1988, and he earned more than 400 caps for Great Britain and England.

Taylor is a former director of the British Olympic Association and was a member of the Hockey Association executive committee for 12 years.

He said he was delighted to be involved. "I have a great interest in sport and I know that ice hockey is immensely popular with an exciting future," he said. "I am looking forward to being involved in its development."

SNOOKER

Bond able to put trauma aside

By PHIL YATES

IN A sport where, since 1980, Steve Davis and Stephen Hendry have accounted for 136 tournament wins between them, it is only natural that members of the supporting cast savour a rare triumph. Ken Doherty did precisely that at the world championship in May, and Nigel Bond was equally overjoyed after capturing the Regal Scottish Masters title in Motherwell on Sunday night.

It has been an emotionally draining summer for Bond, who recovered from 8-6 down and from 61 points in arrears in the fifteenth frame, to beat Alan McManus 9-8 and win the £60,000 first prize.

Bond, aged 31, became a father for the second time four months ago but soon afterwards a paediatric specialist delivered the news that the baby, Daniel, was suffering from a serious heart defect that will require surgery.

Snooker, of course, became of secondary importance but, supported by his wife, Caron, Bond began preparing for the season ahead. Little did the former English amateur champion from Old Tupton in Derbyshire realise that the new campaign would bring him success almost immediately.

By producing a 67 clearance to steal the fifteenth frame on the black, Bond planted a seed of doubt in the mind of McManus and the Scot, who has converted many semi-final and final appearances into only three trophies in seven years as a professional, again stumbled with the winning post in view.

McManus accepted another near-miss snooker, but his claims that the defeat "did not hurt" that much were unconvincing. "Losing, especially from such a position of strength, must, to some degree, undermine the confidence of any player, no matter how strenuously he attempts to be positive."

Bond, with no such concerns, defends a title later this month at the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix but first he must win the Regal Scottish Masters. "I know that all of the game's leading players will converge on the Grand Prix in Bournemouth. The first of the eight world-ranking tournaments of the season gets underway next Tuesday."

**SHEEHAN on BRIDGE**

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This is a hand from the 1997 Cavendish season event. It featured a fast-fought play to achieve a trump promotion.

Dealer North	Love all	IMPs
♠ 832 ♥ 76 ♦ A J 8 4 ♣ A K 7 6 4	♠ Q J 9 ♥ 10 9 ♦ Q 4 ♣ Q 8 6 5 3 2	
♠ 10 6 ♥ K Q J 4 3 2 ♦ A 10 8 6 5 ♣ A		

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of spades.

South opened One Heart after two passes and West over-called One Spade. Thereafter North showed a hand with a few high cards and South a hand with good playing strength and at least ten red cards. North-South ended in Four Hearts.

After this informative auction, West (Geoff Hampson, a silver medalist in the World Junior Championships) led three rounds of spades. Declarer ruffed and advanced the queen of hearts. Hampson rose with the ace and played a fourth spade. East ruffed in with his ten of hearts, promoting Hampson's eight for one down. They were the only pair to beat Four Hearts.

Hampson's skill was in recognising that he had to play East for either J10, J9 or 109 of hearts to beat the contract. Many Wests started with three rounds of spades but then ducked the first trump

**KEENE on CHESS**

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Kasparov's challenger

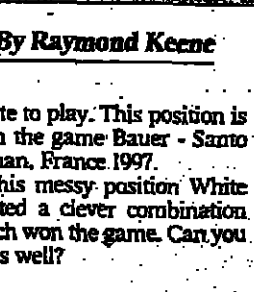
In spite of the elaborate preparations by the world chess federation (Fide) to stage a 100-player knockout tournament in Groningen and Lausanne at the end of this year and the beginning of 1998, to determine the destination of its own championship, what the public would most like to see is a direct clash between Kasparov and Kramnik. Although Fide has seeded Anatoly Karpov directly into the final of its tournament, Karpov's ranking of 2,748 lags far behind that of Kramnik (2,770). Kasparov's, at 2,820, is way ahead of both of them.

It is inexplicable that Fide has seeded Karpov directly into the final of its \$5 million event and limited the deciding match to a mere six games. Had they seeded Kasparov directly into the final and extended the deciding match to at least 16 games, it is almost certain that the champion would have participated.

Today's game shows the young Russian genius Kramnik in action in the tournament in Tilburg. White: Joel Lautier. Black: Vladimir Kramnik. Tilburg, September 1997.

Nimzo-Indian Defence	
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e5
3. Nc3	Bc4
4. e3	O-O
5. Bc3	c5
6. Nf3	d6
7. O-O	Nc6
8. a3	Bxc3
9. bxc3	Qc7
10. cxd5	cxd5
11. Nxd4	Qxd5
12. Bb2	Re8
13. Re1	c4
14. Bc2	Ne4
15. Re1	Qd8
16. g5	g5
17. Ng2	g4

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



White to play. This position is from the game Bauer - Sarno, Roman, France 1997. In this messy position White spotted a clever combination which won the game. Can you do as well?

Solution on page 46

Ryan faces ban after intervention by Brittle

هكذا من الأصل

things always end in tears. But at least Mimi, and the samurai who falls on his sword, have not vanished into nothingness. There is life after death. We know that because Terry Scott has been back among us for several weeks now, reincarnated as Clive Mantle's "Jack" in *Bloomin' Marvellous* (BBC), the 39-year-old father-to-be who still doesn't seem to have learnt the most basic facts of life — a black hole that allows him regularly to roll his eyes and snore loudly — but that may be Terry used to. Of course, the BBC has also had to reincarnate vintage Terry-and-June-style scripts.

In an age when 14-year-olds don't just know the facts of life, but are often teaching them to their younger children, Jack's behaviour (he's supposed to be an academic, or Pete's sake) looks as credible as in O.J. Simpson alibi. Now if it was Victor Mature in the role, it

Joe
Joseph


Opera Works (BBC2) reminded me that if you popped out halfway through Rodolfo's wailing scene at Mimi's bedside you could take in a two-course dinner and still be back in time to see Mimi slip away. Luckily, Miller shares our view that opera death scenes are ludicrously overblown. The only person to wince more — and for longer — than opera singers in a death scene is *Verona Mars*. But

Terry used to. Of course, the BBC has also had to reincarnate vintage *Terry-and-June*-style scripts. In an age when 14-year-olds don't just know the facts of life, but are often teaching them to their own children, Jack's behaviour (he's supposed to be an academic, for Pete's sake) looks as credible as an O.J. Simpson alibi. Now if it were Victor Mature in the role, we could at least write off the word

CELEBRATING

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a videocontrol decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (2081007)
7.30 Milliflake (7004804) 7.35 USA High (r) (7582248) 8.00 Havalizoo (8558303)
8.30 WideWorld The emergence of Berlin during the 19th century (8557874)
9.00 Espresso (5655775) 10.00 Exclusive (r) (6303378) 10.30 Hot Property (r) (r) (8454910) 11.00 Leeza (9131133) 11.50 Double Espresso (44389026)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (8455262)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (r) (49183543) 1.00 5 News Update (89328587) 1.05 Sunset Beach. Vanessa finds the gun that killed Jimmy's father (r) (1412939) 2.00 5's Company (4862945)
2.30 A Time to Triumph (1986) with Patty Duke, Joseph Bologna and Julie Bovasso. A woman joins the army and rises through the ranks to become a helicopter pilot. Directed by Noel Black (3822804)
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (55078113)
5.30 Whitefire (8468026)
6.00 100 Per Cent (8465839)
6.30 Family Affairs Maria is upset when she finds out that Annie has told Nick about the rape; and Duncan's cool image is blown by Jack (r) (8449991)
7.00 Exclusive Julie Bradbury and Baz Berrymore look at the publicity stunts used by the stars (6206281)



Grey squirrel: friend or foe? (7.30pm)

7.30 Beestly Britain The history of the grey squirrel in Britain—from pest to pest to little more than a century (8541303)
8.00 Plastic Fantastic Last in the series looks at the future of cosmetic surgery (6395129)
8.30 5 News (r) (6001738)
9.00 Hot Shots! Part Deux (1993) Charlie Sheen, Lloyd Bridges, Vanessa Golino and Richard Crenna star in this spoof. Look out for the gangly frames of Rowan Atkinson and Ryan Stiles. Directed by Jim Abrahams (6721968)

2.25am Live and Dangerous presented by
Jeremy Nicholas (34573682)

3.45 Live and Dangerous: Futbol Americas
Soccer action from the Latin American
leagues and IndyCar racing (2102866)

4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Now-
nostalgic police drama (8900972)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5605392)

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: a control group and an experimental group. The control group received a standard diet and water, while the experimental group received a diet supplemented with 0.5% of the active ingredient. The subjects were then subjected to a series of tests, including a baseline test, a test with the active ingredient, and a test with a placebo. The results of the tests were then compared between the two groups.

[illegible]



FOOTBALL 44

Lloyd steps out of his league for Wales

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7 1997

RACING 43

Impressive Arc victory put in perspective



Briton climbs to world No 4

Rusedski gets ready for hardest task

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE aftermath of his triumph in Basle on Sunday, Greg Rusedski's delight in advancing to No 4 in the world rankings was tempered by the knowledge that an early exit in Vienna this week would negate those gains.

"When I started the year, my goal was to be No 20, then 15, then 10 and finally make the top five," he said. "Now that I have achieved it, my next goal is to try and stay there. That's the hardest part."

Harder, indeed, than is evident to the casual observer, for the complicated rankings mechanism will make huge demands of the Briton this week.

Rusedski knows that the 171 computer points that he amassed from winning in Beijing 12 months ago — his only tournament victory of 1996 — are about to be wiped from the slate. They will be replaced by the points he accrues in Vienna, where he must reach the semi-finals simply to protect his position.

Tim Henman, left toiling by

Rusedski of late, experienced this predicament last week. Despite reaching the semi-finals in Basle, his world ranking dropped by one place to No 21. Henman had reached the semi-finals in Lyons 12 months earlier. On the rolling computer rankings system, he was obliged to forfeit those points.

A difficult first-round pairing with Andrei Medvedev in Vienna further clutters Rusedski's progress, yet the British No 1 has become accustomed to clearing barriers in his path. The higher they are, the better he seems to jump them.

"I have sustained this level for a few weeks now," he said. "Also, I am at my best indoors, so the European indoor season could not have come at a better time."

In addition to protecting his ranking, Rusedski, born in Canada, craves a berth in the \$3.3 million (about £2 million) ATP Tour world championship in Hannover next month. The round-robin tour-

namment is confined to the eight highest-ranked players; no Briton has previously graced the event formerly known as The Masters. That Rusedski, 24, is favoured to make the cut underlines just how emphatic his progress has been.

The most potent weapon in tennis is a powerful service. Rusedski's has no equal. He boasts the fastest electronically-timed delivery on record, but that alone will not sustain him at this level. Earlier this year, his technique improved immeasurably under the tutelage of Brian Teacher, so Rusedski's recent dismissal of the California-based coach came like an unexpected thunder-clap.

Rusedski's appointment of Tony Pickard, formerly coach to Stefan Edberg, raised eyebrows even further, yet the new alliance has increased the player's potency. Rusedski argues that Teacher's strengths lie in the technical side. Pickard, 63, is more of a schemer, a strategist, a tactical plotter of the downfall of Rusedski's opponents.

Rusedski clearly values this commodity. As much was evident two weeks ago, before Pickard's appointment was made public.

After beating Yevgeni Kafelnikov in Munich, Rusedski arrived for the obligatory press conference wearing an expression of uncharacteristic smugness. Pickard had been relaying strategy down the telephone and Rusedski was impressed. It enabled him to reverse a drubbing from Kafelnikov on their only previous encounter.

Rusedski's bank balance has advanced almost as dramatically as his surge into the top flight. The lion's share of his seasonal earnings of \$1,238,473 (about £786,545) has been gained over the past eight weeks, when he has prevailed in 22 of his 27 matches. He has reached the quarter-finals in his past six tournaments, the semi-finals in his past four. No British player has posted such gains since rankings were introduced 25 years ago — although Fred Perry and Bunny Austin were allotted the first two places on a pre-war, unofficial rankings chart.

For all that, Rusedski recognises that the real challenge starts in Vienna. The absence of Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Patrick Rafter makes him the highest-ranked player engaged in Europe this week. His is therefore the most-prized scalp. Defending it offers yet another new challenge to Briton's No 1.



Hoddle, right, and Gascoigne reflect the mood of optimism in the England camp at Bisham Abbey yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Neville ushers in new dawn

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE name of Julius Caesar has already been drawn into all the flimsy imagery surrounding the meeting of Italy and England on Saturday. Until yesterday, no one had invoked the spirit of Cassius, but as Glenn Hoddle's squad began its preparations for the trip to Rome at Bisham Abbey, Gary Neville put that right.

Neville is a fitting symbol for the resurgence in English football after his part in Manchester United's inspirational victory over Juventus in the European Cup Champions' League last week. A young man possessed of the sort of honesty and playing integrity that any coach would stake his career on, said that the time had come for England, too, to be masters of their fates.

He captured the mood of euphoric unity galvanising the nation in the run-up to the match on Saturday when he described how he and United's other England squad members were given a standing ovation as they left the pitch during a testimonial on Sunday — by Manchester City fans at Maine Road.

For once, everything seems to be going England's way, too. The mood in the camp is

buoyant, there are no injuries to worry about, although Tony Adams, Graeme Le Saux and Gareth Southgate did not train yesterday because of slight injuries, and the momentum is with England and against Italy. As pride is restored, more and more observers and players who do not look abroad for inspiration, are coming forward.

Neville, who should just edge out Southgate as the third of Hoddle's defensive bulwarks alongside Tony Adams and Sol Campbell, is one of the most obvious beneficiaries of this new mood of optimism that has swept through the squad since England's victory over Poland in Katowice and their triumphs in the Tournoi de France.

Tipped by many to be a future England captain, he kicked off what is bound to be a long week of players beating the drum by saying that a gradual realisation had swept through the squad that there was no reason for them to be overlooked by the Italy players. Their reputation, he said, exceeded the reality.

"I do not think the Italians are anything special," Neville said. "You look at the Brazilian front line with Ronaldo, Romario and Denilson. The Italian front line of Zola and Castaglioli does not have quite



the same rest about it. There is nothing to fear from them."

"We build these things up too much. We give teams an aura. But when you play against them on a number of occasions, you do not have the same fear. You think: 'They are only human. For their Zola, we have got Wright. For their Albertini, we have got Beckham. You match them off one by one and we do not suffer in comparison.' These players that they have are not players of a calibre we have not got."

"When you play against Juventus as much as we have done now, you do get the feeling that they are not as brilliant as people make them out to be. I do not think they fear us. I think the problems were all our own. The fault was in ourselves. It is a game of football and of course we could lose but it is about time we went away to places like Rome and won."

"We have got to be careful not to be overconfident but the country senses that the Eng-

land team is in as good a position as it has been for a long time. The change in our morale in the last year has been dramatic."

The England coach said that the mood within the camp was so enthusiastic yesterday morning that he had stopped the training session 15 minutes earlier than he had planned because his players had put so much commitment and effort into it. "The application was so good we had to take the foot off the pedal a bit," he said.

As the Italians reportedly agonise about the prospect of England beating them at their own counter-attacking game and their players talk down their chances of success, Hoddle said he had an afternoon of fishing and trips to the cinema planned for his squad.

"We just want to make sure everything is relaxed," Hoddle said. "We know it is a crunch game. It was always going to go down to this game and we have got the inner belief now that we can do it. As far as the Italians are concerned, just imagine it if it was Wembley and we needed to win. The pressure really would be on you."

"The game will be all about which team goes out there and how close they can get to their natural way of playing in the pressure pot of the Olympic Stadium. Each and every player has to go down that tunnel with 100 per cent belief in his mind and in his heart that he can do it."

If the side was picked on those criteria alone, Gary Neville would be one of the first names on the team-sheet.

